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LD031400 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The missile exchange continued 2-3 March, with Iran announcing three more strikes on Baghdad while Iraq reported five on Tehran and another on Qom. IRGC statements carried by Tehran radio said the Iranian missiles were targeted on military, intelligence, and Ba'th Party centers in Baghdad, but statements over Voice of the Masses radio claimed they hit residential areas and caused civilian casualties.

The Iraqi attacks on Tehran and Qom were announced in military statements carried by Voice of the Masses and Baghdad radios. Military statements carried by Voice of the Masses also reported Iraqi air raids on Dezful and Karaj 2 March, and on Shiraz and Dezful the following morning.

On the effects of the Iraqi attacks, Tehran radio claimed that one missile hit a Tehran hospital 3 March, injuring 20 people. Missile attacks the previous day had killed a number of people, including two young boys. The highest casualty figure mentioned by the radio resulted from the 3 March Iraqi air raid on Shiraz, where 13 people were reported killed and 40 wounded. Among foreign reportage on the bombardment, Jakarta radio disclosed that the Indonesian Embassy in Tehran was hit in the first wave of Iraqi missiles on 29 February.

A Tehran radio commentary linked the "savage" Iraqi attacks with current "conspiratorial efforts of world arrogance" at the UN Security Council. The radio also contended that Iranians are "enraged" by the "hypocritical" activities of "counterrevolutionary elements" in providing Iraq with "information for bombing schools, hospitals, and densely populated areas."

In a related diplomatic development, JANA reported that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has contacted Iranian leaders, adding that this has led to a "positive attitude" and that efforts are under way to end the "war of cities." In Lebanon, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri sent a letter to Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni expressing condolences for any casualties caused in the attacks on the holy city of Qom, Beirut radio noted.

Lebanon

FRG national Ralph Schray was released by his kidnappers 3 March and taken to Damascus under Syrian protection, DPA reported. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' informed his FRG counterpart of Schray's release in a telephone call reported by Damascus radio, describing it as a success for Syrian efforts. Schray's kidnappers, the self-styled "Mujahidin for Freedom," had earlier issued a statement announcing that Schray's release was imminent following Syrian mediation with the FRG, AFP noted.

In the wake of the release of two Scandinavian UNRWA employees, Sidon militia leader Mustafa Sa'd disclosed that their kidnappers were Palestinians, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Sa'd said the Scandinavians were freed after he gave the kidnappers a 12-hour ultimatum. Meanwhile, an UNRWA official cited by AFP indicated that the release of the men could lead to a resumption of UNRWA aid to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Israel

Political Developments—IDF radio reported that the Alignment and Likud are unable to agree on a date for early elections, noting that while the Alignment is willing to hold the poll in June, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is insisting on July or August.

As for the U.S. peace initiative, Jerusalem radio said the Likud has "no intention whatsoever" of accepting the "Shultz plan" as it was presented to Shamir, and all the Likud ministers are "unanimous" on this point. Shamir told his Likud colleagues that the most he is prepared to compromise on is the agreement to allow the superpowers to grant "international endorsement" to talks between Israel and Jordan.

Nevertheless, Shamir sharply criticized Jordan's position in remarks broadcast by the radio, asserting that it is adhering to the positions of the "most extreme elements" in the Arab world. The radio noted that Shamir also criticized "biased" media coverage of Israel, and he warned that the time has come to consider "taking steps" against the media.

Territories—Three Arabs were wounded when security forces fired to quell disturbances in Nabulus and the Hebron Hills 3 March, IDF radio reported. Two Jewish settlers were injured in knife and stone attacks in Hebron the same day, according to Jerusalem radio. The previous day, IDF soldiers used tear gas to disperse a riot in Ramallah and also arrested about 20 people in the area on suspicion of inciting disturbances, Jerusalem radio noted. Another 18 Arabs were arrested in the village of Qabatiyah on suspicion of having participated in the recent lynching of a collaborator, the radio said.

Libya

Pilots, Planes Return—"Bad weather" forced four military aircraft en route to Tubruq to make emergency landings at an Egyptian airport near the border, JANA reported 3 March, noting that the pilots and their planes left Egypt for home.

Jamahiriyah Hailed—In a speech broadcast by Tripoli television, Col al-Qadhdhafi honored the 11th anniversary of the establishment of the Jamahiriyah by hailing it as a "declaration of freedom" for Libyans as well as all oppressed peoples. Al-Qadhdhafi, who was addressing the General People's Congress meeting in Ra's al-Unuf on the Gulf of Sidra, castigated the United States as the "enemy of man" and reiterated accusations that the United States abets Israel in waging a "racist and religious war" against the Arabs. However, if the United States changes its policy to one of neutrality and respect, Libya will extend the hand of friendship, he declared.

Sudan

Ethiopia's "basic support" for the SPLM was "confirmed" by a document which was recently seized in the Equatoria Region along with ammunition boxes bearing an Addis Ababa logo, a military spokesman revealed in a SAWT AL-UMMAH report cited by SUNA 3 March. Regarding action in the south, the clandestine SPLA radio announced that 91 government soldiers were killed and 67 wounded 25 February when rebels clashed with troops escorting river barges.

Interior Minister Ahmad al-Husayn charged that the security situation in western Darfur Region has deteriorated because a "conflict between two states" is being carried out in Sudan, SUNA reported. The Chadian opposition forces of Cheikh Ibn Oumar are "roaming" Darfur and attacking across the common border, while "armed gangs" of Chadian troops penetrate "deep inside" Sudan, the minister disclosed.

Algeria

Tunisian President Visits—President Chadli Bendjedid welcomed his Tunisian counterpart, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and the two leaders began talks, Algiers radio reported. In remarks cited by the radio, the Tunisian president noted that the 2-day "friendly working visit," which is his first foreign trip since he assumed power 7 November 1987, falls within the framework of the "permanent consultations" toward Maghreb unity, and he declared that the talks will focus on all issues that affect the regional situation.

President Bendjedid praised the "excellence" of relations with Tunisia and the "qualitative development" of bilateral cooperation, APS reported. Bendjedid also underscored the Western Sahara conflict as an "objective obstacle" to efforts for Maghreb unity.

Iranian Official Received—President Bendjedid received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani, who delivered a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, Tehran radio reported, noting that talks were held on the war and the oil market.

Morocco

On the occasion of the anniversary of his accession to the throne, King Hassan II issued a decree pardoning or reducing the sentences of 995 detainees and convicts, Rabat radio reported.

Afghanistan

The Pakistani charge d'affaires was summoned to receive a protest regarding a reconnaissance flight which violated Afghan airspace in Konar Province 2 March, Kabul radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reportedly Sends Message to Al-Asad

JN030811 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Mar (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on achieving Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation.

In its weekly issue here today, the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD said Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, handed the message to the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tunis during their meeting last Sunday. Arab and Palestinian sources told the newspaper that the recent meeting in Tunis held on the sidelines of the meetings of the Arab seven-member committee between Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, was attended by Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian foreign minister. The sources added that the meeting was held as part of the Algerian efforts aimed at achieving reconciliation between Syria and the PLO.

Fatah's Khalaf on Shultz-Palestinian Meeting

JN021435 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 29 Feb 88 p 15

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch]

[Text] Tunis—A prominent Palestinian leader has doubted that the United States would agree to hold a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and a Palestinian delegation to be named by the PLO. In an exclusive statement to AL-BAYAN, Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee, noted that the United States has embarked on attempts and procrastinations with regard to naming the members of the Palestinian delegation and the venue of the meeting.

He said the United States still insists that the PLO should name the personalities from inside occupied Palestine and that the meeting should take place either in Jerusalem or Cairo. However, he added, the PLO still insists that it should form its own delegation.

With regard to the names proposed by the PLO, Abu Iyad said that naming the members of the delegation is not important nor does it constitute an obstacle. No definite names have been proposed so far. What is important is to agree on the principle, he added.

On the other hand, AL-BAYAN learned from well-informed Palestinian sources that the PLO has nominated three personalities from outside the PLO—Walid al-Khalidi, Akram Haniyah, and Edward Sa'id. The names of the other three from inside the occupied territory have not been disclosed yet.

Al-Quds Radio Urges Boycott of Shultz

JN031131 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1105 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah have returned to their suspect activities. Just as the Zionist enemy arranged their earlier trip to Washington to meet with Shultz during the circumstances prevailing in our homeland, talks are now under way behind the scenes through the Camp David [Egyptian] regime to prepare a meeting between them and others on one hand and Shultz on the other during his second shuttle tour.

Brother strugglers, the objective of the U.S.-Zionist enemy is clear: it is to crush the uprising of our great people. It is clear now from the outcome of Shultz' first tour that the United States is determined now more than ever before to tighten the U.S. noose around the neck of our people's uprising to save the Zionsit entity from its present crisis and to save reactionary regimes and forces linked to the United States' capitulation plan for the region.

Brother strugglers, Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating land and man, reaffirms the necessity to continue to boycott Shultz so he will not be able to cross the river of blood with which our heroic martyrs, wounded, and detainees and have written the modern history of our people and nation.

Heroes of the stones, heroes of the slingshot forces, heroes of our people's uprising, heroes of confrontation and resistance: Beware of the new old U.S. move. God is with us and victory is near. We are together on the path of liberating land and man.

Al-Quds Radio Urges Loyalty to Committees

JN030827 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0757 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, our heroes in the towns of Palestine and in all of their streets and quarters, our heroes in the villages of Palestine and in all of their quarters and alleys, our heroes in the camps of Palestine and in all of their alleys and streets, brother strugglers, heroes of the heroic uprising, men of Palestine:

We draw your attention to the need to completely abide by every instruction issued by the national popular committees in all quarters, streets, camps, villages, and towns. We repeat that priority is to the instructions of these committees. Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating land and man, while emphasizing this, is fully confident that you are fully aware of the importance of complete loyalty to these national popular committees, because they are the ones which organize the affairs of daily life and the methods of confrontation against the machinery of U.S.-Zionist tyranny.

Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating land and man, would like to draw the attention of our brothers in the national popular committees that it will broadcast every statement it receives from these committees.

Brother strugglers, let us remember the need to maintain national unity in our confrontation against the Zionist enemy and in our escalation of the uprising by all means and ways. We are confident you can do that and that our great people, our heroic Palestinian Arab people, can do that. God is with us and victory is near. We are together on the path of liberating man and land. Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating land and man. Test transmission.

Unified National Leadership Issues Call No 9
JN012128 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1433 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Call No 9 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Popular Uprising—date, place not given]

[Text] We pledge that the popular uprising will continue to escalate until the independent Palestinian state is established.

Our struggling people, your glorious uprising continues and your heroic confrontation of the enemy army and the Zionist settlers escalates, inflicting the heaviest losses on them and on their henchmen and scoring new achievements daily. Zionist murderer Rabin cannot but implicitly admit defeat. At last, he admitted that our people wage a civil war. Our heroes, the enemy has been defeated politically. Only U.S. imperialism is seeking to save it from certain defeat. The enemy has been defeated economically. Its official figures about the direct losses it sustained in the stock exchange and productive projects have exceeded $2 billion as a result of our heroic workers' strike. The enemy was also defeated militarily.

You, the heroes of the uprising are daily making the cost of occupation more prohibitive and are increasing its losses. You are proceeding with firm steps, determination, and unfaltering will toward the establishment of your independent state. This is your decision, the decision of the masses of the uprising. It is the only decision on our Palestinian land.

We are united as one body and are nipping in the bud the conspiracy of U.S. imperialism with Shultz as its hero. Shultz will only sustain a sweeping defeat in his attempt to market the Camp David goods which the Palestinian people had rejected. The agents of the reactionaries are hiding in their dens now that the uprising of the heroic people against the enemy and its agents has defeated them.

From the premise of the daily struggle and confrontation of the fascist Zionist enemy's tools of repression, we address our greetings to the comrades in the struggle on the occupied Golan Heights. We shake their hands which have inflicted painful and harsh blows on the Zionist enemy. More blows on the road to repulsing the Zionist enemy.

Heroes of the glorious uprising, brave student groups, and academics, one of the pillars of the Zionist policy is to stultify our people and deprive them of the most basic rights acknowledged by international conventions and norms, the right to education. That's why the Zionist enemy has closed down all our educational institutions such as universities, higher institutes, and schools. By doing this, the enemy has deprived a third of a million students of receiving an education.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising has decided to confront the Zionist enemy's decisions by voiding them. It calls on the student masses, the teaching staff, and the administrations of the educational institutions to carry out unified confrontation on all levels to defy the enemy's decision by organizing educational operations on a national basis and by foiling the stultification policy the enemy adopts against our masses. The Unified National Leadership also appeals to all international bodies and organizations to support our people's struggle for foiling this policy.

O businessmen, professional workers, and craftsmen: Pursuant to and in line with the program of the uprising and the comprehensive popular revolution, let us sever one of the enemy's economic jugular vein and let us resoundingly proclaim our rejection of taxes in their various forms. Taxes are one of the lifelines which finance the enemy, including its tools of repression and its invader army.

Let us once again proclaim that the battle of taxes has begun. You are capable of waging this battle by organizing your rights and your collective unified stand. All the masses of the uprising will stand by your side in this battle. The accountants also have an important role in this battle.

Let March be the month during which our stolen funds will stop pouring into the enemy's coffers. We are confident the unity of these sectors of our people and the unity of our people by abstaining from paying taxes will be another enemy defeat to be added to previous defeats.

Our masses, we are running the battle with you and through you. That's why the following has been decided:

1. The continued enforcement of the present arrangements with respect to the opening of businesses and shops from 2 to 3 hours daily in accordance with the circumstances of every area.

2. The need for our productive plants to operate at full capacity to enable the largest possible boycott of Zionist goods. These plants will suspend their activities only on the days of the general strikes announced by the Unified National Leadership.

3. With respect to industrial areas outside the cities which house shops, blacksmith workshops, garages, and others, these areas will open for business from the morning until 1300 with the exception of the days of general strike during which they will be closed.

4. The need to keep open all clinics, dispensaries, and health centers all the time.

5. The nonpayment of fines imposed by the fascist Zionist military courts on our sons the detainess.

We urge property owners to demonstrate the ethics of our heroic people by reaching an understanding with their tenants on the amount of rent due to them for the last 3 months.

We urge our people in the cities, villages, and camps to form collection funds under the supervision of national and popular committees in the various quarters of the cities, villages, and camps to offer assistance and aid to those who need it in their respective locations. We also warn against responding to those who collect such assistance from outside these committees which you have formed.

The Unified National Leadership calls for exposing all the methods of sedition and sabotage to which the Zionist enemy resorts, such as setting cars on fire or disseminating rumors or statements to fragment our people's unity.

We address a militant greeting to the sons of Qabatiyah who have taught a lesson to those who betray their homeland and people. We call on those who work in the civil administration and the police departments to stop working there, to immediately resign, and to join our people in their struggle and heroic uprising.

Sons of the independent state, while it praises your struggle and pledges to pursue the struggle with you and through you until the establishment of our independent state, the Unified National Leadership calls on the masses of the uprising and our children wherever they may be to carry out the following:

1. To use all means to topple the appointed municipal and rural committees which are the tools of the power-sharing capitulatory plan.

These committees stand in the trench that is hostile to our people, particularly after they refused to submit to the will of the masses of the uprising which have given them the chance to resign before it is too late. However, these committees insisted on continuing to betray their people and put themselves in the service of the enemy and its objectives.

2. The proclamation of 5 March 1988 as the day of the return to the land, working on it and cultivating it collectively.

3. The proclamation of Sunday, 6 March 1988, as the day of the Palestinian flag on which Palestinian flags will be flown on all locations and on every house. Flags will also be flown during the tumultuous demonstrations.

The Unified National Leadership also calls on the Palestinian and Arab masses throughout the Arab homeland and abroad to hold demonstrations on this day, and to fly Palestinian flags.

4. The teaching staff and students working or studying in educational institutions should proceed to these institutions, thus voiding the Zionist enemy's decision.

5. Let us escalate the war of attrition against the enemy, block the roads leading to the settlements, and put black paint over Hebrew inscriptions on walls, particularly inscriptions having a terrorist connotation.

6. The celebration on Tuesday of the 8 March anniversary, that of world women's day, by having Palestinian women go to the streets in tumultuous demonstrations announcing their rejection of the occupation and setting the most splendid examples of how to confront the Zionist army.

7. The proclamation of martyrs day which falls on 9 March 1988 as a day of general strike and of mass demonstrations in the streets to celebrate the beginning of the 4th month of the glorious uprising and to commemorate the first group of martyrs of the popular uprising. Let this day become a new day of anger against the Zionists.

8. Holding tumultuous demonstrations starting from mosques and churches on Fridays and Sundays.

Glory and praise to the martyrs of our heroic people. Ignominy and defeat to the U.S. settlement plans. God is with us. Victory is close. Let us proceed to liberate the land and man. Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab Radio on the path of liberating land and man.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Talks on Afghanistan Issue Open in Geneva

Noorani on Pakistan's Goals

BK020345 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani has said that Pakistan will take part in the proximity talks on Afghanistan with a constructive attitude to

finalize all four of the instruments. He told a crowded news conference at the airport on his arrival in Geneva that an agreement has already been reached on three instruments. He said Pakistan would like to see 50 percent of the Soviet forces leave Afghanistan within the first 3 months of the timetable set up for Soviet troop withdrawal. At the same time, all hostilities should cease and peaceful conditions should be created there to enable the refugees to return to their homes with honor and dignity.

Zain Noorani reaffirmed that the question of troop withdrawal should be taken up along with the formation of a transitional government in Afghanistan. He asked the Soviet Union and all other countries interested in an early and just solution of the issue to assist in establishing a transitional government. Pakistan wants a comprehensive settlement, not a partial one, in order to ensure peace. He said that various parties to the Afghan dispute, including Diego Cordovez, have been working on the formation of a transitional government for more than 1 year. Even Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev is on record as having said a couple of months ago that an agreement to form a broad-based government is not only desirable but also necessary. It has been our firm opinion that the Afghan refugees currently in Pakistan and Iran will not go back to their homes unless a transitional government is in piace.

In reply to a question on whether or not Pakistan will sign an agreement with the present Kabul regime, he said we have never said that we will sign it with one government or the other. The matter is currently being discussed by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. Zain Noorani said no one, including the United States, has put any pressure on Pakistan on the Afghanistan issue. Any decisions it makes will serve its own interests.

Officials Assess Talks

BK030301 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Zain Noorani, the minister of state for foreign affairs, has described as good the discussions held on the 1st day of the Geneva proximity talks. Following his discussions with the UN envoy, Diego Cordovez, he told newsmen that they now understood each other's position better. Cordovez remained in constant touch with the Pakistani and the Kabul delegations during the indirect talks which lasted for 3 and 1/2 hours.

'Abdul Wakil, the Kabul administration's foreign minister, has described these negotiations as very good.

Answering a question whether the negotiations appeared to be in good shape, Cordovez said it is not the question that the talks should appear to be good on the surface; they must actually be good. Before the resumption of the talks, Cordovez held separate meetings with the U.S. and Soviet officials who are now in Geneva.

Just before the resumption of the talks, the Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs told newsmen that he will go to Islamabad to consult with the political leaders. The prime minister has invited the leaders to meet on Saturday [5 March]. Immediately after these consultations, Zain Noorani will return to Geneva to continue the proximity talks there.

BAKHTAR Notes Talks

LD030631 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0526 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Geneva, March 2, BAKHTAR—Another round of Afghan-Pakistani negotiations resumed in the Palace of Nations here today. The talks are being conducted through the U.N. secretary-general's personal representative Diego Cordovez. The Afghan delegation to the talks is headed by Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, the Pakistani side is led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani.

Cordovez told a press conference today that the current round of talks was decisive. He said that the talks were of a complex and delicate character, a number of difficult issues were to be resolved. In his view, all the parties concerned expressed the striving towards the earliest settlement of the conflict.

'Abdul Wakil News Conference

LD030635 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Geneva, March 2, BAKHTAR—"The Afghan delegation has arrived in Geneva for a positive conclusion of the talks with Pakistan in the spirit of good will" head of the delegation, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan 'Abdul Wakil said at a press conference in the Palace of Nations on Tuesday. The recent statements by President Najibullah and General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev remove all obstacles to the signing of the Geneva agreements. The parties concerned should manifest responsibility and a sense of duty.

The Afghan side is not going to make any new demands that could complicate the talks. The inclusion of new aspects in the agreed upon arrangements on which some circles insist would contradict the clearly expressed will of many peoples in favour of an early end to a difficult conflict. We are convinced that the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, that is the solution of external aspects, will give a strong impetus to the solution of domestic problems and will set the beginning to the settlement of other regional conflicts, 'Abdul Wakil said.

Answering questions, the minister recalled that the Afghan Government declares for the creation of a government of national unity without preliminary conditions, drawing into it broad political forces and opposition groups in the spirit of the policy of national

reconciliation. Those who are entrusted with implementing people's power have already declared that they are prepared to form a coalition government, being guided not by personal interests, but solely by the interests of the restoration of peace and well-being of the Afghan people.

As to the idea of a transitional government advanced by leaders of seven opposition groups in Peshawar, this idea is unrealistic, the minister said. Moreover, there are grounds for doubt that its authors express the opinion of other opposition forces, specifically those that are now in the Afghan territory.

The head of the Afghan delegation said further that the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation started just a year ago has already been bearing fruit. This policy meets with positive response from some opposition groups. Over 40 thousand participants in armed actions have by now stopped resistance to the central government and agreed to participate in the overall process.

'Abdul Wakil expressed confidence that the Afghan Government is capable of ensuring independence and territorial integrity of the country in conditions when outside interference in Afghanistan's affairs stops simultaneously with the beginning of the Soviet troops withdrawal. By the way, this obligation fully applies also to the USA which under the terms of the Geneva agreements will be one of the guarantors of their observance, he said. Dwelling on the chances for the signing of the agreements, the minister said it is an encouraging fact that many political groups in Pakistan had recently declared in favour of such a step. A positive conclusion of the talks in Geneva would suit the aspirations of all who are really interested in the restoration of peace in the area.

BAKHTAR Commentary

LD030644 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 2, BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR commenting on the commencement of Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the solution of the situation around Afghanistan writes:

The process of Geneva talks which in the light of national reconciliation policy and sincere endeavours of the UN has found new dynamism, and entered into its sensitive and final stage due to the constructive and flexible stand of the Republic of Afghanistan has drawn the attention of world's people and international communities. The motives for pinning hopes to this process lie in the fact that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have shown constructive, responsible and clear stands in regard to the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and, thus, no pretext is left in this connection.

The principled stands of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have been clarified in the February 8th statements released by the leaderships of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, in which convincible answer is given to those who considered since long before the lack of a time-frame for the return of the Soviet limited military contingents as the main obstacle of political solution to the situation around Afghanistan. That is why, the people of Afghanistan and those of world over became convinced that the Geneva talks will lead to political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. Because, unjustified pretexts and postponement of accords can not be considered other than opposition to the cause of peace and public opinion of world community.

Repercussions and reactions shown by the world community, including the head of states, governments, political circles in the USA, international political and social organisations and that of Pakistan indicate that the statements of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union leaders have left no question unanswered to delaying the political settlement. The reality is that the Pakistani authorities, as doing before, can not hide realities. The realities are so convincible now that not only international community, but the Pakistani society as well consider deviation and ignorance of relevant realities to the Geneva talks as a treason to the peace cause of Afghanistan's people and ignorance of world public opinion.

The demand made by 16 major political parties of Pakistan on February 28 in a meeting is a worrying testimony to this fact. They demanded the Pakistan's Government to sign Geneva accords by applying common sense. The joint session of Pakistan senate and National Assembly to which Ziaul Haq pinned his hope to get the deputies favourite view, showed that even Zia's close supporters were opposing his non-constructive stand. The parliament of Pakistan asked the Government of Pakistan to sign Geneva accords. Even Zain Noorani told the parliament that Pakistan's friends such as China, Saudi Arabia and Iran have asked Pakistan not to miss the opportunity for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

Algeria

Bendjedid, Iran's Larijani Hold Talks

LD021923 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] According to an IRNA report, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani, who is in Algeria to confer with Algerian officials, met and held talks with President Chadli Bendjedid at the presidential residence this morning.

According to the same report, Larijani handed a message from President Khamene'i to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and held talks on the imposed war, the Persian Gulf question, the world oil market, and steps that should be taken by OPEC in this respect.

At the meeting, the Algerian president expressed his pleasure at the friendly bilateral relations and affirmed the necessity of an effective step to consolidate OPEC's role.

Bendjedid Views Relations With Tunisia

LD021139 Algiers APS in English 1026 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Algiers, 2 March (APS)—"Between Tunisia and Algeria, there are rich and dense links which are determined by common history and necessities of good neighbourhood", President Chadli Bendjedid declared to the Tunisian news agency, TAP.

In an interview issued Tuesday by TUNIS AFRIQUE PRESSE, the head of state expressed his satisfaction for the excellence of relations between the two countries. "Our common action, he added, is methodical and rigorous, I mean we are building on solid bases. The logics of our relations obey to the logics of the construction of the great Maghreb."

The gains of the qualitative development of Algerian-Tunisian cooperation are a subject of pride in Algeria and Tunisia, the president underlined pointing out that Algerian-Tunisian have their own specificity. [sentence as received]

Concerning the Treaty of Brotherhood and Harmony (which enters its fifth year on 9 March) it plays a fundamental role in the (?healthening) of the regional enviroment, the head of state pointed out. He underlined that the gains of this treaty reflect the rightness of its logics. The treaty of fraternity does not constitute a limited frame, it is a frame that is open to all countries of the Arab Maghreb. However, the head of state noted, the persistance of the Western Sahara conflict remains one of the objective obstacles to a unitary enterprise that is global in its conception and diligent in its implementation.

But, the president affirmed, all ways condemn us to iron out the difficulties, to overcome obstacles and double our imagination in the definition of the best way to make all means we have profitable in order to make of the Great Arab Maghreb a great economic and political group in the area.

Tunisia's Ben Ali Comments on Consultations

LD021145 Algiers APS in English 1040 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Algiers, 2 March (APS)—The Tunisian head of state Zine El Abidine Ben Ali indicated in an interview to the FLN party's organ "REVOLUTION AFRICAINE" that "the Tuniso-Algerian consultation had (...) very encouraging results such as the numerous economic, industrial and social projects achieved together, notably in the frontier zone". Citing the Treaty of Brotherhood and Harmony, the Tunisian head of state, considered that this treaty "is a reason of satisfaction and even of pride.

"It also gave new hopes of peace in the region and broadened prospects of understanding in the Maghreb countries" Ben Ali added.

Concerning the Morroco-Sahrawi conflict, President Ben Ali affirmed that "Tunisia will spare no efforts to contribute, within its possibilities, to the settlement of this problem".

Ben Ali also affirmed that his country is ready "to join any Arab initiative aimed at consolidating the Palestinian heroic resistance and to make triumph their just cause."

Arrives for Visit 2 Mar

LD022151 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali arrived in Algiers this afternoon on a 2-day friendly working visit to our country at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid. Algeria's guest was greeted as he got off his plane by President Chadli Bendjedid, who was accompanied by the members of the Political Bureau. Members of the government and the diplomatic corps were also present.

President Ben Ali is accompanied on his visit by the minister of foreign affairs, the interior minister, the director of the Destourian Democratic Rally, the secretary of state of the presidency, and the secretary of state for foreign affairs.

In a statement to the press, President Ben Ali emphasized that this is the first visit he has made outside Tunisia since 7 November.

President Ben Ali said: With this visit I would like to express the strength of the ties uniting the two fraternal Algerian and Tunisian peoples in the past, present, and future. My visit, he went on, comes within the framework of permament consultations to bring about the best conditions for building the Greater Arab Maghreb.

During this visit, we are going to examine all the Arab and international issues that have a direct or indirect bearing on the situation that prevails in our region, and on our future, said President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia this afternoon, upon his arrival in Algiers.

The first round of political talks started a short while ago at the Djenan el-Mithaq villa, presided over by the two heads of state.

Egypt

UN Delegate Criticizes PLO Office Closing

NC010855 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] New York, 29 Feb (MENA)—Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations, addressed the UN General Assembly tonight during its discussion of the U.S. Congress' legislation, which provides for closing the PLO mission at the United Nations. He stressed that the approval of this legislation has brought forth the issue of the need to abide by international commitments, an issue which is recognized by the provisions of international law. He pointed out that anything said to the contrary is an admission of the prevalance of disorder in international relations.

Badawi said that in accordance with the UN headquarters agreement, the United States has permitted PLO officials to enter and reside in the United States in order to discharge their official duties at the United Nations. By carrying out this commitment, Badawi added, the United States has complied with the provisions of Articles 11, 12, and 13 of the headquarters agreement and with the need to implement it with goodwill.

Badawi explained that this latter commitment to goodwill is one of the rules of international and domestic law. With regard to implementing commitments, the commitment to goodwill requires that the host state continue to provide all stipulated facilities that will enable the PLO mission to fully discharge its official duties.

The Egyptian delegate added: This rule of commitment to goodwill also requires that the host state follow the law. As one of the agreement's provisions, it accepted that it would attempt to solve any dispute which might arise as a result of the implementation and interpretation of the agreement. This is Egypt's opinion, which other members of the international community share. In its recent session, the General Assembly appealed to the host country to abide by its contractual commitments in accordance with the UN headquarters agreement, and to refrain from adopting any measures that might prevent the PLO mission from carrying out its official duties.

In his address at the UN General Assembly, Badawi said further: The danger of closing the PLO office at the United Nations does not only lie in its current effects, but also in its future dimensions, for others may allude to it in order to evade similar contractual commitments. He also said he hoped that the international legislators would think of all the possible consequences and dangers of such a situation.

In conclusion, Badawi said: The language of the law, which both parties have accepted, is the final judge and has the final say in this dispute. Now that the United Nations, a party to the dispute and represented by its secretary general, has expressed its stand, we expect the host state to open the door for the law to state its verdict.

Liberal Party MP Quits, Cites 'Islamic Setback'

PM021455 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Murad Denies Islamic Line's Retreat"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—A new crisis has erupted within the Egyptian opposition party, the Liberal Party, because of the resignation of Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri, Party under secretary and head of the Party's parliamentary committee, who has decided to resign from all his positions and membership of the Party. It is the second resignation to be submitted by Islamic leaders in the Party. The first resignation was that of Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il, Party deputy leader, last December.

Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri stated: I joined the Party in search of an Islamic line and tide, despite the fact that it was a weak Party and had no presence on the political scene. I was able to prompt Islamic leaders and Muslim youths to join the Party. The Party leader, Mustafa Murad, was transformed from a liberal thinker to an Islamic thinker, but 6 months ago I noticed a retreat from that line. This was after the chief editor of AL-AHRAR, the Party's mouthpiece, was replaced and previous leaders, proponents of secular inclinations, were returned to control of matters.

In exclusive statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Al-Badri said: I felt there was an Islamic setback in the Party's performance and practices. I also felt I did not belong there. I warned the Party leader, Mustafa Murad, against that approach but AL-AHRAR, in its new guise, has begun to publish destructive pictures of and articles on Islam; it banned publication of my reports and articles. There has been a complete blackout on my activities within both the Party and parliament.

Shaykh al-Badri said: I hastened to announce my resignation after I sensed the higher committee's premeditated intention to dismiss me at a meeting to be held tomorrow, Wednesday, in implementation of a recommendation from the General Secretariat, because of my alleged lack of commitment to the Party's decisions within parliament. I also wanted to deny them the opportunity; that is why there had to be an element of surprise.

Al-Badri criticized the situation within the Party and Mustafa Murad's inability to make decisions: Proof of this is that I was assigned to take charge of the paper SHABAB AL-AHRAR at the beginning of last October, but the decision was cancelled and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ghuwabi, the Party's secretary, was assigned instead at the end of the month.

He said: He [Murad] makes decisions at night and cancels them the following morning. Besides, it was I who asked not to work full time for the Party and that the payments I used to receive be discontinued.

Al-Badri denied any link between his resignation and that of Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il, indicating that the reason for Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il's resignation was to protest against the Party's failure to make a decision punishing me for not being committed to instructions issued by the alliance bloc in parliament.

He indicated that he would not join any of the existing parties and that he would continue his political activities with a view to creating and establishing an Awakening Party [Hizb al-Sahwah] which would embrace scattered Muslim youths and perform its activities within parliament as an independent Party.

Meanwhile, Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad has indicated that he has not yet received any resignation from Shaykh al-Badri and that there are no differences or retreat from the Islamic tide; proof of this is in his attendance at the meeting held by the Party's permanent committee last Thursday.

He added: Since he was elected member of parliament, Shaykh al-Badri has traveled abroad a lot, thus he has been unable to devote full time to Party work. I asked him to prepare a study with a view to developing SHABAB AL-AHRAR. Three months have passed but he has still done nothing. We have not withdrawn the car allocated to him, but we discontinued his salary after he was elected to parliament, since he now receives a monthly payment and an allowance for attending sessions and committee meetings.

He said: There is no link between Shaykh al-Badri's resignation and that of Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il, since the latter wanted to control the Party and refused to accept that decisions must be made by voting—something that is not possible in Party work, since democracy and voting are a must.

Furthermore, Liberal Party Secretary General Muhammad 'Abd al-Shafi has stated that Shaykh al-Badri's departure was the result of a dispute that erupted in the Party last Saturday when he saw the minutes of the General Secretariat's meeting, which decided to refer him for investigation in view of his failure to abide by Party rules in his stands within parliament.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 'Abd al-Shafi added that Al-Badri is demanding to become chairman of the board of directors of the Party paper, despite the fact that he did not succeed in managing SHABAB AL-AHRAR. 'Abd al-Shafi welcomed Al-Badri's resignation, indicating that this way the Party returns to its sons.

Furthermore, Shaykh al-Badri has not refuted reports by some Liberal Party leaders that he intends to join the ruling NDP and that the idea of the Awakening Party is mere camouflage on his part for the time being, until he seizes the right opportunity and announces that he is joining the ruling Party.

Israelis Drop 'Poisoned Food' on Village

NC292134 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] According to reports from the occupied territories, Israeli planes today dropped poisoned food supplies on (Bayt Qamar) village near Hebron, as part of the oppressive Israeli measures aimed to abort the Palestinian uprising.

Soviet Industrial Delegation Arrives 2 Mar

NC021142 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—A Soviet industrial delegation led by the vice chairman of the Soviet Industrialization Commission arrived in Cairo this morning for a 10-day visit.

Eng 'Adil al-Muzi, chairman of the board of Al-Nasr Coke and Basic Chemicals Company in Hulwan, said that talks will be held during this visit on the final report prepared by the Soviet delegation on installing the fourth coke-producing unit, with an annual capacity of 600,000 tons.

He added that the talks will also address plans by the Soviet Union for the immediate manufacture of equipment and tools for this project, whose overall cost will total approximately 80 million pounds, so that these can be imported early next year and production can start within 2 years, by the end of 1990.

Egypt and the Soviet Union signed an agreement last year valued at 35 million accounting sterling pounds to finance the purchase of equipment for this unit, which will increase the company's coke production from 900,000 tons to 1.5 million tons a year.

Price of Crude Oil Set for 1-15 March

NC011144 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0954 GMT 1 March 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Hammad Ayyub, deputy chairman of the General Petroleum Authority, has announced the price of Egyptian oil for the period 1-15 March. He said that the prices that will go into effect today are as follows: Suez and Ra's al-Bihar crude, $14 per barrel; Bala'im crude, $13.15 per barrel; Ra's Badran crude, $12.65 per barrel; and Ra's Gharib crude, $12.05 per barrel. [passage omitted]

Commentary on U.S. Role in 'Revolution' Case

JN021259 Cairo Al-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Feb 88 p 7

["Just an Opinion" column: "Who Involved the United States?" by Salah Muntasir, editor in chief of UKTUBAR]

[Text] Anyone listening to some of those who are defending the Egypt's Revolution Organization and who are asking the government to investigate the long detention of one of the defendants by the U.S. Embassy, and his interrogation on his organization, will imagine it was the government that involved the U.S. Embassy in the case, and it was the government that went to the U.S. Embassy to ask it for its view.

These people forget that from the very beginning the U.S. Embassy was involved by the defendant himself, whom they are defending. It was he who went to the U.S. Embassy with the sole aim of selling details of the organization led by Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, in return for $500,000, a price determined by the defendant.

What moral, patriotic, and intellectual decline can equal such conduct?

If he had a grain of patriotism he would have gone to the Egyptian security services and made his confession. However, he went to the embassy of a big power, whose employees he took part in attacking, in order to sell his confessions to that embassy. He was not only attempting to assassinate employees of that embassy, but also attempting to assassinate the great homeland, Egypt itself.

Therefore, the object was the price. Killing for a price, and confessing for a price. What kind of patriotism can one talk about after that?

What are the myths being concocted on sending the defendant to the United States to undergo a lie detector test there? Logically, which is easier: to send the defendant to the United States in secret with all the deception, dissimulation, and hiding that entails, or to bring a lie detector to Egypt, since any passenger can bring the lie detector or it can be sent in a diplomatic pouch?

What is the importance of the U.S. Embassy ascertaining the defendant's veracity, when in the end it will not pay him a single cent and is bound to hand him over to the Egyptian security services to determine the veracity of his statements?

We are facing a campaign of deception that turns the traitor into a patriot, the mercenary killer into a hero, and the seller of his country's secrets to foreign embassies into a man of chivalry. What an insult to Egypt, the minds of Egypt, and to Egypt's innocent youth!

Oppose if you will, but without offending the dignity of Egypt and the love for Egypt.

Press Cited on Uprising, Shultz' Shuttle Tour

NC010806 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Today's editions of the Cairo press continue to condemn Israel's repressive practices in the occupied Arab territories, particularly the stand of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on the peace process in the Middle East.

AL-AHRAM writes that Shamir has become a person with many anecdotes both inside and outside Israel. It says: As an example of this, Shamir declared his commitment to bilateral negotiations with the concerned Arab countries, but then reiterated his rejection of the international conference which everyone had agreed in principle would be under a large, broad, and maybe even a mere formal "umbrella."

His argument was that the conference would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state. He then reiterated his stand that he does not want to return the occupied territories, and then followed this with his rejection of the "fundamental essence" requiring any action, international conference, or bilateral talks.

Citing a second example of Shamir's anecdotes, AL-AHRAM reports his statement that Israel will never agree to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza, regardless of the pressures applied, even from the United States as represented by its secretary of state.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that the whole world will laugh at Shamir for the umpteenth time, and he might hear this laughter after his retirement or his downfall as a result of what his hands have done.

AL-AKHBAR writes that if world public opinion has been content so far with declaring its condemnation and denunciation of what the Palestinian people are being subjected to and expressing its sympathy with them, then the Arab world must take a firmer and stronger stand to force Israel to put an end to the iron fist policy which it arrogantly and intransigently insists on pursuing, while ignoring and despising the entire international community and disavowing all moral and human principles.

The paper adds that the courageous revolutionary uprising, started 3 months ago by the unarmed Palestinian people, and the steadfastness of their stonethrowers against the Israeli forces' arms and barbaric treatment require real Arab support and practical backing from their brothers. This would help the people stand fast against an enemy seeking to silence and gradually annihilate them. It asks what the Arabs are waiting for before they take the necessary steps to prevent Israel's leaders from implementing their vicious plans to liquidate the Palestinian people as the final solution to the problem.

It adds that the Arab world is today going through a phase of true solidarity in an overwhelming number of its countries, which constitutes an opportunity that must be seized: an urgent Arab summit should be held, one that will raise the Arab voice strong and high in various international arenas and take a more effective stand against Israel.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR says that time is passing quickly while the Palestinian people's martyrs are falling under the bullets of the tyrants, but the heroic uprising's blaze should continue until it achieves its goals.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that if the occupied Arab territories remain in the hands of the Israeli occupation, then they will remain a burning bomb that cannot be extinguished except by removing the fuse of violence and anger—by recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and providing security for them.

The paper expresses the hope that George Shultz will emerge from his shuttle tour of the region—during which he is expounding U.S. ideas and proposals and conveying the reactions of the various parties—with lessons that will help the peoples of the region actualize their desire for a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East problem.

It says that the U.S. secretary of state heard from President Husni Mubarak Egypt's view of the U.S. proposals, which is summed up in the need to respond more specifically to the Arab demands, and to include in the Arab-American dialogue the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories, because the Palestinian issue is the basis and core of the conflict in the region.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that George Shultz may make another tour of the region in the coming few days and come back to Cairo before returning to Washington. It says that this possibility reflects two important facts. The first is that the U.S. secretary of state still hopes to achieve positive results that will overcome the obstacles that have recently emerged. The second is that the Middle East crisis has become a priority in U.S. policy. It underlines this by noting that Shultz reiterated the U.S. commitment to positive movement and action aimed at finding a comprehensive solution for the Middle East conflict.

It notes that Shultz, in his capacity as the architect of U.S. foreign policy which, above all, protects Israeli interests, knows quite well the changes in the structure of the problem brought about by the Palestinian uprising, as well as the world and U.S. public opinion of this uprising and its condemnation of the Israeli repressive measures in the occupied Arab territories.

Further Reaction Reported

NC020744 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—The Cairo papers on Wednesday have expressed their regret that Secretary of State George Shultz' tour in the Middle East ended before it began because of Israeli intransigence toward any peaceful efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

AL-AKHBAR points out that Egypt calmly listened to the ideas and proposals which Shultz brought and discussed with the leaders of the countries he visited. Egypt did not hasten to reject these ideas and proposals, as did Israeli Prime Minister Shamir. Rather, President Husni Mubarak expressed Egypt's reservations on the U.S. ideas and proposals in order that they be amended to adjust to the current state of affairs and developments.

The paper notes that Egypt urged the U.S. Administration to take into account the time factor and to move fast, to contain the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories so that a solution to the region's problems could be reached. We are hoping, the paper states, that the Americans will respond to this request because the passing of each new day means more suffering and pain for the inhabitants of the occupied Palestinian territories.

The paper concludes by saying Shultz' tour will hopefully not be just another one of those tours made by U.S. envoys to the region in the last few years, to be followed by a lull during which U.S. efforts to settle the region's problems and establish peace come to a halt.

Expressing similar sentiments, AL-AHRAM also blamed Israel for ending the Shultz tour before it had begun. This happened, the paper writes, when Shamir dropped a bombshell before his visit, and then another during it, when he refused to address Shultz' proposals that were leaked prior to the visit. Shamir met Shultz, the paper says, with three no's: no to peace in exchange for land, no to an international conference preceding Arab-Israeli negotiations, and no to transitional self-rule, even if the latter idea was accepted by the Arabs.

Shamir could have done without the second and third no's, the paper says, for the first was more than enough to end the discussion. However, he wanted to make a point of frustrating and embarrassing his interlocutor.

It is astonishing, the paper says, that despite this painful rebuff Shultz dispensed advice to the Palestinians, the wronged side, to the effect that they should participate in the peace process, take a more positive attitude toward their future, and immediately start talks with Israel to guarantee swift results. "For God's sake," the paper states.

AL-AHRAM concludes by saying that such appeals could have served their purpose better had they been addressed to Israel, judiciously blended with admonition and chastisement. Maybe some implicit threats, and there are a thousand diplomatic gimmicks for doing so, would have provided an appropriate answer to Israel's high-handedness.

Commentary Cites Obstacles to Shultz Mission

NC022137 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Ibrahim Wahbi Commentary: Obstacles Facing Shultz' Mission]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has almost concluded his Middle East mission. He frankly admitted that none of the countries which he visited endorsed the U.S. proposals. However, it is still too early to judge his mission as a failure. Shultz has not completed his mission yet and the U.S. ideas should be reformulated in the light of Shultz' meetings with Middle East leaders and the parties concerned with the crisis.

Following his tour of the Middle East, Shultz will brief the U.S. President on his talks. Shultz and Reagan will be attending NATO meetings in Brussels, after which Shultz may return to Cairo and may also meet with Palestinians in order to probe their views.

Apparently, Shultz' peace-seeking efforts have been adamantly rejected by Israel. If Shultz' efforts fail, there will be grave consequences for international peace and security. Shultz' current efforts are possibly the last chance for peace.

The Palestinian uprising is going strong in the territories, as are Israeli repressive and inhumane measures, which have aroused cries of condemnation from all over the world, not excluding Israel's friends. In such times as these, a solution can hardly be obtained through vague formulas, the repeated dispatch of emissaries to the region, or Israel's adamant obstruction of peace efforts.

It is being said that Israel is divided over the U.S. poposals which Shultz brought to the region. The presumed division in the Israeli Government has generated some calls for early elections in Israel. Some Likud members suggested that the elections be held this July, which means that the peace efforts would be shelved until the elections are held. Israel wrongly hopes that the Palestinian uprising will run out of steam in the meantime.

In brief, George Shultz' Middle East mission has not so far succeeded. Israel's positions, statements by Israel officials, and U.S. tardiness in meeting with Palestinians have not been helpful. The Palestinians are the party most interested in the Middle East issue and any deal to which they are not a partner is a sure waste of time.

What is at issue is not how to find new formulas or how to rewrite old ones until they lose shape and purpose. What is needed is to find solutions which are comprehensive, positive, realistic, clearly-defined, and binding.

We believe that the U.S. secretary of state's Middle East mission may find success if it is reshaped to accomodate the aforesaid facts, the views of the concerned parties, and peoples' rights and human rights.

Briefs

Agreements With Kuwait, Australia

The Higher Committee for Policies and Economic Affairs met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi today and approved a number of international agreements, including an agreement with Kuwait on a pharmaceutical industry development project and an agreement on a grant from Australia for 50,000 tons of wheat. [Summary] [*Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Mar 88 NC*]

Libya

'Bad Weather' Forces 4 Planes To Land in Egypt

LD030833 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Mar (JANA)—According to a spokesman for the Libyan Arab Air Force, it has been revealed that four Libyan aircraft were flying from the Sabhah military zone to Al-Nasir Air Base in Tubruq. However, as a result of bad weather conditions they were unable to land there. They then tried to land at Baninah Airport in Banghazi, but were unable to do so.

Returning to Al-Nasir Air Base, they were again unable to land. At that point they were about to run out of fuel and were forced to request permission to land at an Egyptian airport on the Libyan border.

That airport agreed and they landed safely just before their fuel was exhausted. The pilots were treated in a fraternal way at the Egyptian base. These aircraft, along with their pilots, are now on their way back to the land of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Contacts Iran on 'War of Cities'

LD031131 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1042 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Mar (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution continues to follow developments in the Iraq-Iran war in light of the tit-for-tat shelling of Iraqi and Iranian cities.

JANA has learned that the brother leader of the revolution is in contact with the leaders of the Iranian revolution. These contacts have led to a positive attitude, and efforts are being made to end the war of cities, which has destructive effects on both sides.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Note From Senegal's Diouf

LD031041 Tripoli JANA in English 0959 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received Saibik Mac Biak [name as received], the personal envoy of the Senegalese President Abdou Diouf who handed him a written message from the Senegalese president.

General People's Congress Opens in Ra's al-Unuf

LD021905 Tripoli JANA in English 1712 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Ra's al-Unuf, Mirrikh [March] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The General People's Congress has convened its regular 14th session in the meeting hall in Ra's al-Unuf town in Sidra Gulf municipality.

The meeting aims at formulating the resolutions passed by the basic people's congresses in their third regular session of 1397 the departure of the Prophet, corresponding to 1987 affirming the people's power and consolidating the direct people's democracy.

Present at the opening session were hosts (?of fraternal) delegations coming to Great Jamahiriyah from sisterly and friendly countries joining the Libyan Arab people in its celebrations on the 11th anniversary of the establishment of people's power and the birth of the first jamahiriyah in history.

Also present were members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Attends

LD022000 Tripoli JANA in English 1749 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Ra's al-Unuf, Mirrikh [March] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has attended this morning the opening session of the General People's Congress.

Today it has commenced the regular 14th session in the meeting hall in Ra's al-Unuf town in Sidra Gulf municipality.

Receives Delegation Leaders

LD022016 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Ra's al-Unuf, Mirrikh [March] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received the heads of the delegations from sisterly and friendly states taking part in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people of the 11th anniversary of the declaration of the establishment of people's authority and the birth of the first jamahiriyah in history who have attended the opening session of the General People's Congress.

Morocco

King Issues Decree Pardoning 793 Prisoners

LD030004 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Tomorrow the Moroccan people celebrate the anniversary of the glorious accession to the throne. [passage omitted] On this glorious occasion, the Justice Ministry issued the following statement:

On the occasion of the glorious accession to the throne, his majesty has issued a decree pardoning 793 prisoners for the remaining portions of their prison or detention sentences.

The decree also reduces the detention or prison sentences for 134 detainees, pardons 58 people for their entire prison sentences or what remains of them, but retains their fines, and pardons 10 people for their detention sentences and fines. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Filali Returns From Gulf Tour

LD021900 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Rabat, March 2 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali Tuesday returned home at the end of a tour to several Arab Gulf countries.

Filali conveyed messages from King Hassan II of Morocco to the heads of State of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

Sudan

Document Confirms Ethiopian Support for SPLM

JN031055 Khartoum SUNA in English 1031 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum Mar. 3 (SUNA)—The Sudanese Armed Forces have seized a document confirming the Ethiopian support to the rebels of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the document confirmed that the (SPLM) gets its basic support from Ethiopia, a military spokesman at the Sudanese Armed Forces announced here today.

The military spokesman quoted by the Arab daily SAWT AL-UMMAH mouthpiece of Ummah Party said the Sudanese Armed Forces seized recently in Equatoria Region large quantities of ammunition boxes which confirmed the Ethiopian support to the rebels adding that the boxes carrying name of "Addis Ababa—Ethiopia."

On the other hand the leader of the Constituent Assembly Prof. Salah Taha has ruled out any agreement between his party and the Chadian opposition forces of Acheikh ibn Oumar which was backed by Libya and said Sudan will not allow any foreign faction to use its territories.

Rebel Claims on Nile Relief Supplies Refuted

EA021849 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Excerpts] You all must have heard the exciting news of the arrival of the steamers carrying food supplies and medicine to Malakal. We are sure that you heard from the rebel radio that they sank these steamers and killed the soldiers guarding them.

In addition, that radio claimed that no food or medical supplies would ever reach Upper Nile [southern Sudan], and that the rebels were in control of the Nile and would prevent supplies from reaching the people in the south. They were also threatening the people in Upper Nile with starvation.

All of this was designed to terrorize the people so that they would join them in their filthy war against the country. Although the people listening to the rebel radio were familiar with its usual lies, they were a little anxious due to their fear of hunger. After all, they knew how important it was for these steamers to reach Malakal.

The Armed Forces, while capable of responding, kept quiet because they firmly believe that Garang's radio and its misinformation warrant no reply. That is why they undertook their assignment of guarding the steamers, determined to teach the rebels a lesson if they attempted an attack. Indeed, they tried to attack the steamers three times. Each time the Armed Forces repulsed their attack, inflicting heavy losses on them and forcing them to flee while leaving behind military equipment. [passage omitted]

The Armed Forces waited from the time the barges left Kosti until they arrived at Malakal on 27 February [as heard]. They waited all that time because they were confident that their forces could carry out the task given to them. They were confident that after arriving with the barges in Malakal, they would be able to refute, confirm, and/or correct all the lies and stories broadcast by the rebel radio, which were also reported by the BBC. Of course, that radio is accustomed to quoting rebel sources and offices established in London at the expense of the poor citizen.

When the BBC broadcasts a report quoting the rebel radio or rebel offices in London, its aim, obviously, is known and its objectives are clear. After all, Garang serves their interests by saying he wants to liberate Sudan, and other such things. These interests are embodied in division, separation, and hostility among the sons of one nation. This will allow them to accomplish what they want, and permit them to rule through people they support or control. This means that Garang and [words indistinct] would together rule the country through Garang if he succeeds, but of course that is not possible. [passage omitted]

SPLA Claims 91 Government Troops Killed

EA021620 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Excerpt] The combined SPLA forces of Northern Upper Nile Zonal Command HQ, comprising Bilpam Battalion and Khawr Fulus Task Force, under the overall command of Commander Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command, again clashed with enemy steamers and the enemy militia accompanying the steamers on land on the 25th February 1988 at (Galo) village.

One barge was completely destroyed, 91 enemy soldiers killed, and 67 wounded. Two enemy militiamen were captured. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Ben Ali To Visit Algeria 2-3 March

LD291738 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The following statement has been released by the Presidential Office:

At the invitation of His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali will pay a friendly working visit to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria on 2 and 3 March.

Arab League's Klibi Receives USSR Ambassador
LD022146 Tunis TAP in French 1545 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Tunis, 2 Mar (TAP)—Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the League of Arab States received USSR Ambassador Vladimir Sobchenko in Tunis on Wednesday at the league's headquarters.

After the meeting the Soviet diplomat stated that he and Klibi discussed the situation in the occupied Arab lands.

Party Central Committee Issues Statement 27 Feb
LD272313 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 27 Feb 88

[General statement issued by the Destourian Socialist Party Central Committee following its session held at Party headquarters in the Casbah on 26-27 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Destourian Socialist Party Central Committee met at Party headquarters in the Casbah from 26-27 February 1988, under the chairmanship of Brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, leader of the Party. This meeting was the first held since the decisive change that occurred in the country on 7 November.

The brother president made a statement in which he called on the Destourians to radically and objectively evaluate the Party's past and to relentlessly single out the negative factors that have piled up over the years in accordance with the declaration of 7 November and in recognition of the Party's work for the country. He called on the Destourian Party to use its ability, despite all the problems and shortcomings, to free itself from the hurdles obstructing its way toward development and progress. Once the Party is provided with a renewed situation, it will be able to continue to assume its leading role and expand the horizons of sound Party action.

In this declaration, the brother leader of the Party stressed that a sound change will be possible only when decisions are made which are good enough to consolidate the serious and responsible dialogue inside the Party structure; when the Party's message is put into action; when its means of action are harmonized; when it regains recognition for its leading role; when its base is enlarged; when its potential is renewed; when it has the opportunity to go along the path of modern reality; and when it responds to the aspirations of new generations.

Following exhaustive discussions, the draft resolutions on the agenda were amended, improved and then adopted. The Central Committee proudly salutes the blessed historic change and expresses its gratitude and loyalty to the maker of 7 November, Brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Party leader and president of the state.

The Central Committee recognizes all of his great services to the nation and the Party, thanks to this change, and recognizes the ensuing decisions and achievements, which have restored the citizens' confidence in their fate and have restored the political life in a line compatible with the people's ambitions and hopes.

The Central Committee considers the guiding statement with which the brother president opened its proceeding to be a platform of action for the Party and a reference with which its militants can look up the importance of their mission in this new era. As a valuation of the Party's role throughout the phases of its militancy, the Central Committee states the following:

The Destourian Socialist Party reviewed the historic trust and civilized message with which it liberated the nation from the hardships caused by foreign colonialism, established the modern state, firmly introduced the republican regime, and achieved a number of national assets in the economic, social, and cultural fields.

Despite all that, some negative occurrences plagued us and were aggravated over recent years; this in turn harmed the Party's credibility and restricted its capabilities. This was due to various reasons such as the shrinking of democratic practices and the by-passing of the by-laws and conference resolutions, in addition to the consequences which resulted from the Party's assumption of the regime's burdens. However, at every stage of its march, the Party has been capable of facing up to the events and problems with a renewed militant spirit.

Therefore, it was the Party's justifiable right to be the guardian of the popular struggle, the active conscience of the nation, and the true representative of the legitimate ambitions of its sons for better conditions.

For nearly 70 years, our Party has been developing a certain trait in the people which has made possible the creation of an organized regenerative society which is aware of the relationship between the state on the one hand and a balanced civil society on the other.

The Destourians are fully aware of the weight of the historic responsibility laid on their shoulders and that the future of Tunisia is linked to the continuity and rebirth of the Party and to its capability to tackle the challenges and succeed in passing the historic test. They are convinced of the necessity to reorganize the Party and equip and prepare it for this new phase of the people's struggle heralded by 7 November in order for the Party to remain the curing and effective force pushing the wheel of progress and change.

The Destourians, at this new and decisive turning point, are being witnessed by their Party, and strongly and proudly declare their loyalty to the entire heritage of the

Destourian movement, without exception or reduction. They emphasize the originality of the theoretical sources upon which this movement was founded.

Proceeding from this premise, they urgently call for a fresh, enlightened, and careful reading of their Party's history and through it of the history of the national movement. They also consider it their duty to affirm loyality to the Party strugglers, to rehabilitate the symbols of the Destourian movement, and to pledge loyalty to its honorable leaders.

The Party program includes upholding the constant factors of the Tunisian national movement and protecting the independent state's achievements, most important of which are:

1. The Party endeavors to see that the participation of Tunisian thought in the human renaissance is founded on the principle of give and take by upholding the origins of our Arab-Islamic civilization and the components of our African and Mediterranean environment and by interacting with other civilizations, a process which induces more effort and innovation.

2. The building of a balanced, interdependent society open toward the contemporary world and founded on rationality and tolerance.

3. The upbringing of the Tunisian national on the idea of pride in Islam and its cultural heritage, involving it in the political struggle and rejecting all attempts to divert religion.

4. The consecration of the values of social justice and the rejection of the inevitability of class struggle.

5. Maintaining the historic innovative relationship between the Party and the workers and their organizations within the framework of integration with other national organizations on the basis of their responsible independence.

6. The consolidation of the position of women, raising the level of their importance, and fully protecting their rights.

7. The consolidation of the family as the basic cell in society.

8. The Central Committee belief that safeguarding the indigenous Tunisian characteristics with its Arab and Islamic identity is the main and firm pillar of the Party's cultural message; the commitment in the action and behavior of Destourians in firmly establishing and consolidating democratic practices at the core of the Destourian Socialist Party, in all its structures and at all levels of Party responsibility, and in stressing the principle of respecting the opinion of the majority and Party discipline. This will maintain the Party's credibility, reaffirm its message, and protect it from every kind of tyranny, opportunism, and careerism.

9. The Party's belief that the modern state's strength lies in the concepts of justice, fairness, and good coordination and balance among the authorities prescribed by the country's Constitution; and that the guarantee of human rights is a sacred duty stemming from our Arab and Islamic traditions and our international commitments. This belief provides an ideal instrument for the state's legal system to spread tranquility, consolidate stability, and establish justice in society.

10. The Party's objective, while embarking on a new era in its struggle, is to restore respect for its main duty and assume it fully in order to serve national objectives by adopting a progressive method aimed at preventing its activity from wavering, and to protect its plans from improvization and its political action from confusion.

11. The Party will competently and determinedly work to provide the necessary cadres capable of involving all Tunisians, without exception, in the process of development begun by the new era. It will enable them to actively participate in stages of decisionmaking and implementation, the just distribution of efforts, and its fruits in order to consolidate our socialist and humanitarian objectives in which there is no place for malice, injustice, or hated.

The Party will happily provide the opportunity for revitalizing the concepts of fraternity, forgiveness, solidarity, love of good, and the taking of responsibility for commencing national construction in an atmosphere of trust, security, and peace of mind, and in the shelter of overall deep national harmony.

This qualifies the Destourian Socialist Party to emphasize its historic role, considering that it is the national rally which represents the majority and which fights for the embodiment of the people's aspirations on concrete grounds.

This period of the history of Tunisia presents civilizational developmental challenges which our Party must thoroughly diagnose, and face. It must then set up a program. The Party considers agriculture to be fundamental in the social and economic balance. The realization of its development is closely related to the degree of our success in implementing an agricultural policy which ensures food self-sufficiency and which guarantees food security.

Continuing efforts to decrease differences, contradictions, and disparity beween regions can guarantee the consolidation of national solidarity.

The advancement of the Tunisian people will remain the higher purpose in our development strategy, bearing in mind that comprehensive development is a goal which will enable Tunisia to face the future with full confidence and steadiness, and will endow it with enough power to consolidate its existence and the capacity to face up to the challenges of dependency in its various forms, especially economic and cultural dependency. It is a civilizational project which requires the effective mobilization of all the forces taking part in providing the cultural, social, and economic yield. It requires efforts to distribute it in an equitable way, thus ensuring social justice.

As for the younger generation, the Party gives absolute priority to childhood and youth, and works to translate this priority in every field including education and training, social protection and employment, and medical treatment and housing, because youth is the pillar of the future and the people's renewed energy.

On the basis of this conviction, the Party shoulders the responsibility for educating the youth in conformity with our educational choices based on the authentication of identity and the firm establishment of national belonging in the feelings of youths.

In the field of Party organization, the Central Committee stresses that the Party's success in implementing the historic change of 7 November depends on the coherence of its structures and organizations with this new message. This requires the adoption of more openness within the Party to attract younger generations by making their membership in the Party easier and increasing their pride by working within its ranks and by shouldering responsibility in its structures on the basis of conscious freedom and responsible democracy.

The Central Committee thinks that this coherence requires the preservation of the Party's distinguished nature, which it acquired throughout its long militant march as a popular rally. The bases of the current Party structure must be consolidated by developing the Party in towns and in the country, and covering the various fields through its cells and formations. The means of Party action must be developed in order to enable the Party's bases to regain their importance and role in taking the initiative and making decisions.

Political education has become one of the main priorities in Party action in this new era, during which the Party needs militants endowed with a deep political culture.

Thus, the Central Committee stresses the necessity of endeavoring to educate the militant to be loyal to the beliefs and philosophy of this Party and to be capable of calling for them and propagating them.

In consideration of the requirements of the current period of our national life since 7 November, such as the necessity of accelerating the aspired change, the Central Committee advises the Political Bureau to take the appropriate exceptional measures to enrich and consolidate the Party's human and structural capacities.

In the field of foreign relations, the Central Committee expresses its pleasure at the full satisfaction and support with which the 7 November change was met on the international level. This returned to our country a radiance which for a long period had characterized Tunisian diplomacy and again endowed it with a leading role in the issues of liberation, progress, and peace.

The Central Committee stresses that Tunisian foreign policy must faithfully reflect the principles brought up by 7 November as well as the Tunisian people's civilizational and moral values in an interaction with the requirements which promote Tunisia's position on the international scene, guarantee the national interests, and preserve the independence and the freedom of decision.

It also stresses that building the great Arab Maghreb represents our first goal, since it is a futurist choice which guarantees the prosperity of the region within the framework of integration and cooperation. Our Party is working to eliminate the obstacles in order to the realize this edifice, and is cooperating in this with wisdom and clear-sightedness with the brothers in the Maghreb countries.

The Central Committee salutes the blessed uprising which has engulfed Palestine and the occupied Arab territories and expresses the Destourians' pride and absolute support for the uprising. The Central Committee reconfirms that the Palestinian cause represents the most important, just cause at present and that the struggle of the Palestinian people, led by the PLO, its sole legitimate representative, obliges every Arab and every person attached to freedom and dignity to support this struggle until the Palestinian people achieve their objectives of liberation, returning to their homeland, and establishing their independent state on their national soil.

Tunisia's foreign policy places at the top of its priorities the work with its Arab brothers for the consolidation of the status of the Arab world, achieving its strength and facing up to the dangers threatening it. The Party Central Committee considers that the strength of our Arab, Islamic, Mediterranean, and African environment depends on our ability to deal daringly and consciously with our reality, and to organize our capabilities for the sake of solidarity and constructive cooperation, and to spare our peoples the dangers of tumbling into conflicts among themselves. Strength also requires a firm stand against colonialism and racism in South Africa, Namibia, and anywhere else on earth.

The Party Central Committee confirms the need to establish our foreign policy on the basis of friendship among nations and cooperation among states, irrespective of their regimes.

The Central Committee members, from the premise of their trust that the deeply rooted spirit of struggle in all the Destourians will remain the best spur for them for shouldering the trust placed in them by the maker of the new era, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, declare the Party's determination to build the future with every responsibility and pride, confirming the pioneering role which the Party has continued to shoulder during all the historical stages of our national life.

They also declare that the Party's most prominent struggle objective is to preserve the nation's gains, achieve its progress, and defend it in the shadow of a lasting and constructive national harmony. Say: Work and God will see your work, and his messenger, and the believers. [Koranic quotation]

Kuwait

Amir Sends Messages to UN Security Council

LD022154 Kuwait KUNA in English 1330 GMT 2 Mar 88

[By Saleh Nazal]

[Text] Kuwait, March 2 (KUNA)—H.H. the amir has sent messages to the leaders of the 15 members of the Security Council notifying them of the disastrous escalation of the war between Iraq and Iran.

Writing in his capacity as current chairman of the 46 member states of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference [OIC], H.H. urged them, specially the five permanent members, in the name of Islamic world and in the love and fraternity Islam calls for among the entire human race, which was also preached by all prophets, and in the name of the OIC which he currently chairs that more innocent victims fall on both sides of the conflicting countries each day that passes by without their interfering to stop the war.

H.H. hailed the good offices of the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar hoping that the messages to the 15 leaders of the Security Council would be an added impetus for them to move swiftly in this direction in a manner that would meet the aspirations of the world peoples to peace in this region which longed for peace.

The messages were delivered to the permanent representatives of the Security Council members who in turn, delivered them to the leaders of their countries late yesterday.

Foreign Minister Regrets Escalation of Gulf War

LD021637 Kuwait KUNA in English 1301 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 2 (KUNA)—Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Wednesday expressed deep regret for the disastrous and dangerous escalation in the Iraq-Iran war.

In reply to reporters' question on the issue, Shaykh Sabah said "We deeply regret that things reach such a disastrous and dangerous escalation of which hundreds and thousands of lives from both sides are victims." Shaykh Sabah attributed this escalation to the delay in implementing the Security Council Resolution 598.

The Kuwaiti official said had this resolution been implemented after it was adopted, the countries of the region would have been enjoying peace at present and blood of thousands of Moslems would have been saved.

Shaykh Sabah called on the permanent member states of the Security Council to speed up efforts toward implementing the Security Council resolution and to avoid any obstacles that delay the implementation of the resolution that is of dangerous results we are witnessing at present. [sentence as received]

KUNA Head Criticizes USSR 'Foot-Dragging'

LD021540 Kuwait KUNA in English 1313 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, March 2 (KUNA)—KUNA's Chairman and Director General Barjes Hamoud al-Barjes [name as received] hailed Kuwaiti-Soviet relations, saying Kuwaiti leaders highly value Moscow's support for key Arab issues.

But Barjes, in an interview screened by Moscow's television recently, indicated that the Soviets can and are hoped to play a more effective role in helping bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end.

Barjes was referring to Moscow's hesitation to approve prompt implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 which ordered an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf war and withdrawal of troops of both belligerents to the internationally recognized borders.

The Security Council permanent members are working on a draft resolution which would impose an arms embargo on Iran for its recalcitrant attitude toward Resolution 598.

In the meantime, American and Western officials say the Soviet union appear less than fully supportive of the trend as Moscow argues that all political and diplomatic means should be first exhausted before an arms embargo was to be clamped on Iran.

The chairman of the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY, criticizing Moscow's "foot-dragging" about penalties against Iran, said the Soviet Union can effectively employ its good ties with Iraq and Iran as to bring their destructive war to a halt.

Barjes also requested the Soviet Union to put pressures on third-party recipients of Soviet weaponry, as not to let those arms leak to Iran where they would be used for prolonging the war with Iraq.

Queried on the presence of foreign fleets in the Arabian Gulf, Barjes told the Soviet television the phenomenon was in no way peculiar to the Gulf, as such fleets exist in international waters all over the world. He further noted that the Soviet fleet was in the Gulf too.

Barjes, however, questioned who created such circumstances that made it imperative for the foreign fleets to ply the Arabian Gulf.

On a Soviet proposal that a U.N. naval force undertake to protect commercial shipping in the Gulf, KUNA chairman said Kuwait supports peace but cannot dictate the Soviet Union and the United States on what they should or should not do.

All what Kuwait wants, Barjes added, is to see security and peace prevail in the region and the world. For its part, Kuwait has always carried out its full commitments for the achievement of that end, he said.

As a superpower, the Soviet Union has certain obligations to meet for the cause of peace and security not only in the Gulf but also in occupied Palestine where women, children and elderly people are being slaughtered daily by the occupation forces, "which receive the backing from countries known for their stances at the Security Council," he said.

Barjes called on the Soviet Union to dispatch a fully equipped medical team to Palestinian territories occupied by Israel to alleviate the sufferings of Palestinians who are being savagely repressed since they revolted against their occupiers early in December.

'Readiness' To Attend Arab Summit Expressed

LD022237 Kuwait KUNA in English 1341 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 2 (KUNA)—Kuwait stated Wednesday its total readiness to attend any Arab gathering that enhances pan-Arab interests, strengthens Arab solidarity and consolidates national unity.

Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah told reporters that Kuwait, headed by H.H. the amir, will not hesitate about taking part in any Arab meeting that cements Arab solidarity and unity and furthers Arab interests.

Shaykh Sabah was commenting on the recent proposals of the Algerian president for holding an extraordinary Arab summit to examine the situation in the occupied Arab lands and the popular uprising of the Palestinian people.

"Kuwait will respond positively if it was officially invited to attend the summit," the top Kuwaiti official stressed.

Al-'Usaymi, U.S. Envoy Discuss Developments

LD022156 Kuwait KUNA in English 1350 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 2 (KUNA)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi conferred with the American Ambassador Wilson Nathaniel Howell Wednesday on recent political developments in the Middle East.

The minister told KUNA after the meeting he and the U.S. ambassador discussed this week's Middle East tour of American Secretary of State George Shultz and the Palestinian revolt against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

Washington's decision to shut down the Palestine Liberation Organization's U.N. office in New York was also talked about in the meeting, Al-'Usaymi said.

The minister said he reiterated Kuwait's conviction that the American move was in violation of the U.N. headquarters agreement.

He said he and the American ambassador brought up in the talks the forthcoming tour of the Gulf region by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost.

PDRY

Call for Arab Summit on 'Uprising' Supported

EA022233 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has stated that the PDRY welcomes the call by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid for an Arab summit to be held to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement to ANA, the source pointed out that the holding of such a summit is regarded as a pressing necessity in light of the escalation of the heroic struggle of the masses of the Palestinian Arab people against the Israeli occupation and of their steadfastness in the face of the savage practices and hideous crimes which are committed with the full knowledge of international public opinion.

The source pointed out that the circumstances created by the uprising require an effective Arab policy in accordance with the level of the bold sacrifices and the daily heroism of the masses of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories.

Adoption of International Agreements Noted

EA022307 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The presidium of the Supreme People's Council held its 18th regular session today. Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, chaired the session. [passage omitted]

The Presidium examined various issues on its agenda. It ratified a protocol to the general agreement between our country and the Soviet Union on cooperation in the comprehensive development of our oilfields, the draft law of the sea, an agreement on cooperation between our

country and the Republic of Djibouti in the field of commercial air transport, and an agreement for economic, technical and cultural cooperation between our country and the Somali Democratic Republic.

It also ratified an Arab agreement on trade arbitration, an agreement with the Arab Telecommunications Union, an agreement on exemption from income tax in the field of international air transport between our country and the Republic of India, a protocol on the modification and modernization of a textile factory between our country and the French Government, and agreements signed between our country and the Islamic Bank, OPEC and the Arab Fund on financing the Lawdar-Mukayras road.

It also approved the nomination of a number of ambassaodrs and the award of a number of decorations.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih on Oil, Ties With PDRY

JN021508 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
29 Feb 88 p 13

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Muhammad Zayn in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] Zayn: Your Excellency, the Arab region's experience with oil has proven that oil wealth can be a curse as well as a blessing. It all depends on how this wealth is utilized. What is your assessment?

Second, Your Excellency, it has been reiterated that exploitation of Yemeni oil has involved the YAR in several political and economic problems. It is being said that the aid you have been receiving from neighboring states has been cut off. There is also talk about a dispute with South Yemen on joint prospecting in some areas. How true are these reports?

The president: There is no truth in what is being reported. The exploitation of oil in our country has not led to the suspension of aid from fraternal states such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait, as well as from other fraternal and friendly states. As you know, our country is still in the early stages of the oil exploitation process. The exportation of oil began only in December last year in limited quantities.

At any rate, oil in Yemen is considered both a national and pan-Arab wealth. As for the southern part of the homeland, good neighborliness and mutual understanding continues between both sides in all fields, including joint prospecting.

Zayn: One aspect of the problem in some oil states is the lack of a clear political and economic vision on how to utilize this wealth. Thus, this sudden wealth has brought with it several economic and social problems. Have you benefited from past experiences and what are your plans for exploiting and utilizing Yemeni oil wealth?

The president: We have begun to implement the Third 5-Year Plan which will depend on oil revenues. We have often said these revenues will also be invested in agricultural and industrial development as well as in building the infrastructure; in other words, building the Yemeni individual who is the main objective of this development. What I am saying here is that our country has a clear vision on this subject. [passage omitted]

Zayn: It is being said that the relationship with the southern part of Yemen is about to witness a military flareup for several reasons, such as the presence of an increasing number of forces loyal to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. Is it true that these forces now number 35,000? And what is the nature of the relationship between these forces and Sanaa? How far have you reached in the unity talks between the two parts of Yemen?

The president: There is no truth in what is being said. They are rumors by forces hostile to the Yemeni people in both parts of Yemen. These rumors are being spread by the weak-hearted wherever they may be inside or outside both parts of the Yemeni homeland. The leaderships in both parts of Yemen are aware of that and also of their national responsibilities. They know these are hostile and biased rumors. Regarding the unity talks between both parts of Yemen, they are continuing.

Zayn: What is the nature of the Palestinian military presence in YAR? Do you believe the Zionist entity might undertake a military action against the Palestinian revolution forces in Yemen in view of the continued uprising in the occupied territory?

The president: Our Palestinian brothers are here in their second homeland. They were received by our country and people following the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and their exit from Beirut. The entire Arab homeland is exposed to Zionist aggression. Whoever believes otherwise is mistaken. [passage omitted]

Zayn: How do you view Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's plan concerning the situation in the occupied territory and what is your assessment of the U.S. stand on the incidents in Palestine?

The president: The YAR's stands on the Palestine question are firm and well-known. We are committed to the Arab summit resolutions and to any initiative that follows the course of these resolutions. We support any plan that serves and pleases the Palestinian Arab people and guarantees their full rights, including the return to their homeland and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative. This is our firm and principled stand on the Palestine question—the central Arab issue.

Our people have affirmed this stand by giving every possible support to the overwhelming Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territory, an uprising which is considered an important qualitative leap that has refused and refuses to surrender until it has achieved all the legaitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

It seems that the new developments and incidents witnessed by the Palestinian arena in the occupied territory have changed all calculations and predictions. They have produced a new reality. These new conditions have made those dealing with the Palestine question view matters more objectively on the basis of the need to secure the full legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, to force the Zionist entity's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and to establish an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian territory under the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

We believe that any new initiative that does not take these two principles into consideration will not succeed. [passage omitted]

Talks Begin With Italian Delegation in Sanaa
JN021511 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, received (Gelbarto Bounloum), Italian assistant foreign minister, and the accompanying delegation, who are on a visit to our country, at noon today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them in addition to other issues which concern the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; and Brother Muhsin al-Hamdali, secretary of the Central Planning Organ.

Talks between our country and the Republic of Italy began at the Central Planning Organ today. Our country's side was led by Brother Muhsin 'Ali al-Hamdali, secretary of the Central Planning Organ, and the Italian side was led by (Gelbarto Bounloum), assistant foreign minister.

At the beginning of the meeting, the secretary of the Central Planning Organ reviewed bilateral relations and phases of their development, particularly in the wake of the glorious September revolution. He praised the Italian Government's role in contributing to development projects in our country. The secretary expressed our country's desire to form a joint Yemeni-Italian committee for economic and technical cooperation.

The Italian assistant foreign minister expressed his admiration for the development and progress which he and the accompanying delegation noticed in the spheres of comprehensive development in our country. He affirmed his readiness to develop and strengthen economic, technical, and trade relations between the two countries. He welcomed the idea of forming a joint Yemeni-Italian committee.

During the session, the two sides discussed issues related to joint cooperation in the field of electricity, health, and oil industry. They also discussed ways to reinforce the activities of the General Department for Antiquities and book centers to search for antiquities and to preserve heritage. They also discussed ways to support agriculture and combat desertification.

The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd al-Wali al-'Aqil, assistant secretary at the Central Planning Organ; officials from the Planning Organ; and Francesco Pulcini, Italian ambassador in Sanaa.

USSR Denies Supplying Long-Range Missiles

JN031447 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, March 3, INA—The Soviet Union has stressed that it has not supplied Iraq with long-range missiles with which Iraq hit Tehran, saying that Iraq has manufactured these missiles depending on its self-potentialities.

In this morning's daily news bulletin in English, Radio Moscow denied reports carried by Western and Iranian media to the effect that the missiles fired by Iraq into Tehran are of Soviet-make. Such allegations "are groundless," the radio said, adding that the truth "is what Iraq has declared...that Iraq has manufactured the 650 km long-range missiles depending on its self-potentialities."

Papers View 'Right To Reply' With Missiles

JN031031 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 3 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH said Iraq has a very large quantity of Al-Husayn missiles, which are ready to pound Tehran and destroy the hideouts of the charlatans.

In an editorial here today, the paper added: It is ridiculous for the Tehran rulers to continue the war to occupy Iraqi territory and cities when they are asking the world organization at the same time to stop the war of cities.

AL-THAWRAH affirmed that the Tehran regime has involved itself in a fatal trap. The war of cities has tangibly proved Iraq's overwhelming superiority and the Tehran regime's failure to get out of the dilemma without international intervention. [passage omitted]

The paper added: Cries and appeals will not do. The Tehran rulers have no choice but to accept Resolution No 598 and to respond to the unanimous international desire for a just and comprehensive settlement of the conflict. Otherwise, Al-Husayn missiles, which are available in large quantities, will continue to pound their cities and hideouts. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the same subject in a leading article here today, AL-JUMHURIYAH said Iraq is exercising its legitimate right to reply powerfully to Iran with missiles and aircraft.

The paper added that by this reply, Iraq is exercising its legitimate right to defend its cities, population, schools, and places of worship in a manner that deters the Tehran rulers.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirmed that Iraq remained patient and exercised wisdom and self-restraint for a long time. So it is now replying to the Iranian aggression and crushing with its missiles and firepower the heads of charlatanism, jugglery, and crime.

In a similar comment, the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH said that the continued pounding of Tehran with Al-Husayn missiles is one of the fruits of the unlimited power of Iraqi supremacy, and that this fruit will increase day after day.

The paper, which specializes in military affairs, affirmed that the Iraqi missiles will continue to be hurled on the heads of the miserable Tehran rulers, arousing real terror and inflicting fatal blows. The pounding of Tehran will not stop and the missiles will reach other Iranian cities, the paper said. [passage omitted]

AL-QADISIYAH said the deadly Iraqi hammer will continue to knock the heads of the charlatans, no matter how long it takes, until they humbly adhere to the resolution of just peace and respect Iraq's options of absolute sovereignty over its territories and waters. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

14th Missile Strike Reported

JN021641 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1537 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 2 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The years which have passed since the beginning of the war have sufficiently revealed the identity of the Iranian regime and exposed it before the world as an expansionist, aggressive regime which has strong ties with quarters most immersed in crime and which adhere to creating chaos and destruction to destroy peoples' resources and obstruct their aspirations. The Iranian regime's crimes against our people and nation were not the only acts which embodied this fact. In addition, this regime is engaged in crimes against its people, who are plagued with its rule and the policy of sabotage and terrorism it has exercised in the entire world.

Perhaps the best evidence of the Iranian rulers' adherence to this course, their insistence on it, and their preference for war and conflict with all their ensuing disasters, rather than for peace with all its resultant stability and prosperty, is their rejection of UN Resolution 598 and noncooperation with the UN Security Council, who seeks to implement the resolution in accordance with the sequence of its operative clauses. This resolution is surely appropriate for ending the dispute, maintaining the two countries' sovereignty and security, and giving all peoples of the region an opportunity to be free on their land and in their social and political options.

Instead of finding in the resolution an opportunity to give up the wrong path, to resort to reason and logic, and to concentrate on solving Iran's political, economic, and social problems, the Iranian rulers did the contrary. They ridiculed the resolution, the Security Council which

issued it, and world public opinion, which has voiced its full support for the resolution. This clearly means that they do not care about their people's suffering as a result of their insistence on the war.

As an expression of their disregard for the international will, the Iranian rulers carried out attacks on our border and our secure cities, headed by our capital, Baghdad. Despite our patience and repeated warnings, they misunderstood our patience and misunderstood us when we become angry. As confirmation of our inalienable right—or rather, our duty—toward protecting our citizens and their properties, we, with God's help, continue to pound the dens of the aggressors and punish them. The 14th Al-Husayn missile strike was carried out. At 1700 [1400 GMT] today, one of our missiles was fired at Tehran. It violently pounded its targets.

Greetings to toilers in the war industries and their brother fighters in our missile force. The people thank them for this good, continued effort. May God grant us success to His satisfaction.

[Dated] 2 March 1988

Communique Sums Up Strikes

JN021740 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,044 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. For our citizens, our valiant Armed Forces, and our Arab nation, the following is a roundup of the painful blows we have dealt to the regime of charlatans since 2000 [1700 GMT] last night and until 2000 tonight, and which were announced by the military spokesman:

1. At 2109 last night, one of the Al-Husayn missiles was fired on Tehran.

2. At 0014 last night, another Al-Husayn missile was fired on Tehran.

3. At 0256 last night, a third Al-Husayn missile was fired on Tehran.

4. At 1145 today, a missile was fired on the city of Qom, the center of Khomeyniite faleshood and charlatanism.

5. At 1315 today, another missile was fired on the city of Qom.

6. At 1445 today, a fourth strike with an Al-Husayn missile was dealt to Tehran.

7. At 1700 today, a fifth strike with one of Al-Husayn missiles was also dealt to Tehran.

Glory to you brave men of the military industrialization sector for your efforts on these cold days for the sake of your homeland, which is worthy of this effort. God bless your struggle, men of our heroic missile force. Further successes under our great leader Saddam Husayn. Keep up the good work.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 March 1988

Communique No 3,045

JN021815 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1710 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,045 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces have continued to courageously and efficiently carry out their heroic activities against our Zionist Khomeyniite enemies. The following is a roundup of the losses inflicted on them last night and today:

1. The aircraft of our daring Air Force delivered a destructive hit to Dezful at 1354 [1054 GMT] today. At 1410 [1110 GMT], our aircraft delivered another destructive hit on Karaj. Then, all of our aircraft returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. Our units operating in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy:

—Destroying one 106-mm gun.

—Destroying two 60-mm mortar guns and killing their occupants.

—Burning and destroying one tank and damaging one armored personnel carrier.

—Burning and destroying two vehicles.

—Killing six scoundrels.

—Destroying one machinegun emplacement and one observation post.

3. Two enemy personnel were killed in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. Five ammunition dumps were blown up, three scoundrels were killed, positions of various types were destroyed, and one vehicle loaded with ammunition was set ablaze in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. One observation post and one infantry position were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. Two enemy personnel were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. Two enemy personnel were killed, two vehicles were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

8. The vile Khomeyniites persisted in their criminal shelling of residential quarters in valiant Basra, its suburb Al-Zubayr, and the hamlet of Qal'at Dizah, using long-range artillery. The enemy shelling martyred a number of our citizens, including women and children, and also wounded another number of citizens, including women and children. The shelling also damaged a number of houses and civilian property. May paradise be the abode of our martyrs and may speedy recovery be the lot of our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 March 1988

15th Missile Attack on Tehran

JN021920 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1848 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 2 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The rulers of Iran want to return to the times of colonialist control, foreign hegemony, and spiteful dictatorship. Therefore, they launched this war and expanded its scope to make their aggression include attacks on residential areas with their places of worship, people's homes, schools, and hospitals. The rulers of Iran are enemies of life and its elements. God has turned their machination back on them in the battlefields, when the Iraqis fought and destroyed their remnants thanks to their leader's sound instructions. Now, thanks to God and with their leader's wisdom, the Iraqis are driving the Iranian rulers' machination back on them in the war of cities which they have ignited. The culprit is responsible for the consequences of his crime.

To continue to exercise our legitimate right and in implementation of our duty toward the lives of our citizens, the 15th Al-Husayn missile strike was carried out. At 2130 [1830 GMT] tonight, one of our missiles was fired at the city of Tehran. It violently pounded its targets.

God bless these days of great victory. O struggling men of the war industries and fighters of our missile force, we thank you for your praiseworthy effort. May God protect and direct our steps toward the great victory.

[Dated] 2 March 1988

16th Missile 'Blow'

JN022145 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2117 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 2 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thus, events prove to the Iranian rulers and all others how sincere and loyal we have been when we warned these despots and counseled them, but to no avail. The time has come to settle accounts with those who have persevered with their crimes and ignited the war of cities to sweep away every good effort. With God's support we continue to pound the strongholds of vice and evil.

Our missile force dealt its 16th blow with Al-Husayn missiles. At 2400 [2100 GMT], a missile was fired on the city of Tehran. It devastatingly pounded its targets. May God bless your hands, O righteous men of the military industries and heroic missile force. By God, you have been generous in your defense of the homeland, in your protection of the citizen, and in meting the right punishment on the enemies of your religion, land, and renaissance. By God, you also deserve the praise of the leader and the love of all the people.

[Dated] 2 March 1988

Missiles Continue 3 Mar

JN030618 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0550 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 3 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As soon as the Arab nation's enemies supplied the Iranian regime with the first missile, it was fired at our immortal capital, Baghdad. The Iranian regime did not delay the missile firing for a single day. As usual, the leaders of this regime competed with each other in issuing empty statements, hollow threats, and reckles, impudent boasting.

Accordingly, we began the deterrence which received the admiration of the whole world. To continue implementing our people's will, the 17th Al-Husayn missile strike has been carried out. At 0300 [000 GMT] today, one of our missiles was fired at Tehran. It hit its target in the core of the city. Thanks to the ingenious leadership of our beloved leader and his sound instructions, the noble youths of the military industries strugglers have realized this great achievement which made our homeland enter this age through the most sophisticated sciences.

[Dated] 3 March 1988

18th Missile Attack Cited

JN030646 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0552 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 3 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As soon as they [the Iranians] obtained the first missile, they fired it at Baghdad, the gem of time. Baghdad's only fault is that it tried to guide them to God's light; enlighten them after they have gone astray; and grant them science, knowledge, and culture. However, they understood nothing and did not contemplate what Baghdad gave them. The Iranians have borne the daggers of treachery against Baghdad throughout the years. Hence, it is no wonder that those who have lived in eternal darkness aim their missiles at the city of light.

Baghdad is able to make you suffer bitterly today. The time of fragmentation, in which influence was for spies and henchmen, has passed. A time has come in which influence is for the people and their leader. To continue the policy of replying to those who have stricken our capital city and towns, our gigantic missile force has carried out the 18th strike. At 0830 [0530 GMT] today, one of our missiles was fired at Tehran and tore up its target. God bless your efforts, O our faithful men of the military industries, and may God guide your steps on the paths of pride.

[Dated] 3 March 1988

Iranian Missile Hits Baghdad

JN030707 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0621 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 3 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0625 [0325 GMT] today, the criminal Iranian enemy fired one of the missiles supplied by those who harbor a grudge against the Arab nation, led by our awakening Iraq. The missile fell on a residential quarter in our immortal capital, Baghdad. The incident martyred a number of civilians, including women and children, and wounded others, also including women and children. A number of houses, shops, and civilian cars were either demolished or damaged.

While praying to God the Almighty to have mercy on our martyrs and grant swift recovery to our wounded, we assert that such crimes will increase our back-breaking strikes against those charlatans. We will not stop punishing them until all their dens are demolished over their heads.

[Dated] 3 March 1988

19th Strike Hits Qom

JN030720 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0633 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 3 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brave Iraq, which has frankly warned them of its overwhleming, superiority [words indistinct], had to prove to them practically and tangibly that they are only midgets before this lofty edifice and that the few missiles they received from the enemies of the nation are nothing in the face of Iraqi creativity and the missiles of enormous destructive power that have been made by the hands of the strugglers, missiles that can pound their hideouts in their capital, Tehran. Thus, we placed our trust in God and made them taste the bitterness of defeat in this field and also in other fields.

In continuation of the retaliatory course demanded by our people, our missile force directed the 19th strike with Al-Husayn missiles. At 0911 [0611 GMT] today, one of our missiles was fired at the city of Qom. It violently pounded its targets. Dignity and glory to you, O brave men of the military industries. God bless your struggle, O men of our missile force. God be praised at all times.

[Dated] 3 March 1988

Aircraft Raid Shiraz, Dezful

JN031121 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1103 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 3 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our gigantic Air Force, which has carried out glorious deeds and which plays an effective role in every victory, joins the destructive deterrence operation which is based on total destruction of the Iranian regime and on retaliation for our righteous martyrs who fell as a result of the Iranian rulers' savage shelling. With God's help, the following two heroic missions have been accomplished:

1. At 1122 [0822 GMT] today, our planes launched a violent raid on the city of Shiraz, which is more than 480 km from our international borders. Our rapacious hawks managed to penetrate enemy defenses, pounding their targets and setting them ablaze.

2. At 1154 today, our planes launched a devastating raid on the city of Dezful, pounding their targets and setting them ablaze. After carrying out these two duties, all our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God. Pride and glory to our Air Force—command, officiers, and other ranks. Praise be to God for his victory.

[Dated] 3 March 1988

Baghdad Again Hit by Missile

JN031215 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1159 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 3 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1330 [1030 GMT] today, the Zionist Iranian regime fired at Baghdad one of the missiles supplied by the Arab nation's enemies and by those who fish in troubled waters. The missile landed in a residential area, martyring a number of civilians, including women and children. A number of citizens were wounded, also including women and children, and several houses were demolished. Civilian property and cars were also damaged. While praying to God to grant paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, we assert that hammering the emtpy Khomeyniite heads will continue as long as the Iranian rulers insist on pursing crime and aggression against our people and our secure cities.

[Dated] 3 March 1988

Iranian Missile Hits Baghdad

JN031614 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1558 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 3 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1815 [1515 GMT] today, the enemy fired at Baghdad one of its missiles supplied by our country's and the Arab nation's enemies, who believe that Iraq's prosperity and victory are a danger to their illegitimate interests. The missile landed in a residential area, martyring a number of civilians, including women and children. Several civilians were wounded, also including women and children. Civilian property, shops, and cars were also damaged.

In light of this, the despotic Khomeyniite clique will continuously receive more devastating blows from our heroic missile force and our giant air force. Mercy and forgiveness to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded.

[Dated] 3 March 1988

Media Comments, Reactions to U.S. Initiative

Likud 'Unanimous' in Rejection

TA021739 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] In their weekly meeting today, the Likud ministers held a debate on the talks held with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. No decisions were adopted concerning the proposal to bring the elections forward. Shlomo Raz reports about the meeting of the Likud ministers:

While the meeting was still in process, the prime minister was notified about the expected return of George Shultz to the Middle East. The U.S. secretary of state will arrive tomorrow evening and will confer with Yitzhaq Shamir Friday morning.

Shultz' shuttle mission was the central issue in the Likud ministers' meeting today. The prime minister reported at length about the talks, and told the ministers about a personal letter he had received from Shultz. The prime minister described it as a warm and friendly letter. The Likud has no intention whatsoever of accepting the Shultz plan as it was presented to the prime minister, and all the Likud ministers are unanimous in their support of the prime minister on this point. For his part, the prime minister made it plain that the most he is prepared to compromise on is the agreement reached in November, according to which the superpowers would host Shamir and Husayn, would grant their international endorsement, would call on the sides to conduct direct negotiations, and would thus end their duties.

The prime minister reiterated his adherence to the Camp David Accords, his opposition to an international conference and to negotiations on the final status which would supposedly open in December. As for whether or not to bring the elections forward, no decisions were made. After the next round of talks between Shamir and Shultz, the Likud ministers will hold another meeting in which they will be briefed and will also discuss the proposal to bring elections forward.

Husayn 'Extremist' Stand Noted

TA030610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says Jordan's King Husayn has adopted the most extreme positions in the Arab world. Speaking to American Jewish leaders attending the Conference of Presidents convention in Jerusalem, Shamir said: I hope Secretary Shultz will succeed, but if not he will know it is not our fault:

[Begin Shamir recording] I am afraid that Jordan's response is dictated by an undertaking to stick to the positions of the most extreme elements of the Arab world. Throughout these last few months of disturbances, it has become very clear to all of us who can see and hear and understand what is happening around us, that the threat and aggression against Israel is not limited to Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

Those who accuse us of being occupiers of Arab areas, who speak to us of morality and human rights, must not forget that this very place where we are looking now—in Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv, and Yafo, and Haifa and the 'Emeq [Yisra'el] and the Galilee—are, in the eyes of the Arabs, occupied territories that rightfully belong to the Arab people. Therefore, all of us should realize that any bending by Israel and any Israeli withdrawal in these circumstances could have disastrous consequences and reduce the chances of peace. If we will not be there, if our army will not be there, the violence will come here, to Jerusalem, to Tel Aviv and Haifa. [end recording]

The prime minister accused the news media of causing grave damage to Israel through biased coverage. Shamir said that while Israel was a democracy, the time had come to consider taking steps against the media.

Differences Summarized

TA021655 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Mar 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Shultz and the First Round"]

[Text] "All the parties I met with during my visit to the region did not accept my plan for peace, but asked that I resume efforts to reach a peaceful settlement." With these words, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz ended the first stage of his shuttle trip to the region and left Israel for London, where he met with King Husayn. Informed sources said that they expect the U.S. secretary of state to return to the region and to continue his shuttle trip in a few days.

Shultz' trip highlighted the depth of existing differences between Israel and the Arab parties to the conflict. We can summarize these differences in three basic points:

First, the framework of the negotiations. The Arab parties to the conflict insist on the convocation of an international peace conference with the participation of all sides. In Israel, however, there are two viewpoints. One raised by Yitzhaq Shamir in the name of the Likud, which rejects the international framework in any form, and the other raised by Shim'on Peres in the name of the Labor Party, which accepts the framework of a ceremonial international umbrella.

As to the second disagreement, it concerns the issue of Palestinian representation. Israel rejects the principle of PLO participation, whereas during his recent visit Shultz realized that Palestinian participation cannot take place except through the PLO.

The third point of dispute concerns the content of the negotiations. This centers on insistence by the Arab side on implementing the principle of land in return for peace. The Likud rejects this principle while the Labor Party supports the principle of "lands in return for peace."

Undoubtedly a fourth basic point of disagreement will arise if the U.S. Administration agrees to meet with a Palestinian delegation chosen by the PLO. This disagreement will be over the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This is rejected part and parcel by Israel.

As is being observed, there are three viewpoints that the U.S. secretary is trying to address, one Arab and two Israeli. We still do not know whether Shultz succeeded in hammering out a unified Israeli position agreed upon by the Labor Party and the Likud. Moreover, how can Shultz determine the minimal Arab and Israeli demands? And what is the U.S. position regarding the Palestinian delegation? Naturally, the resolution of these differences and the answer to these questions will not come through the use of a magic wand. An agreement should be worked out that would satisfy all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestinian people.

Jordan, PLO Inclusion Stressed

TA021405 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
1 Mar 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The PLO and Jordan—Inseparable Twins"]

[Text] After meeting U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres declared that Israel must choose its partner in the negotiations. Either it negotiates with Jordan or it should agree to hold talks with the PLO. This notion is totally rejected both on the Palestinian and Arab levels, because Jordan and the PLO are not rivals that Israel has to choose between. As Peres is well aware, one is not a substitute for the other.

Peres does not ignore this reality, but he does ignore the fact that Jordan is not a substitute for the PLO because the PLO is the embodiment of the hopes and aspirations of all Palestinians. Jordan does not propose itself as a substitute for the PLO. The presence of both the PLO and Jordan at the negotiating table in the international conference is one of the basic principles of Jordanian strategy.

Peres is also trying to intimate that the Palestinian problem has become a subject of rivalry between Jordan and the PLO. He forgets that the problem is that of a nation seeking identity, land, and liberation from occupation. Shultz' current initiative comes against the background of the uprising of this nation which has suffered under 20 years of occupation and whose struggle has been colliding with the intransigent Israeli position over these long years. This position continues to adhere to the necessity of clinging to the gains of the occupation and repudiating the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Shultz was informed of what is taking place in the occupied Arab territories and of the Palestinian people's insistence on gaining their rights and ending the occupation. The difficulties facing Shultz' mission are not the product of the Palestinians or the Arab states. These difficulties stem from the differences and contradictions in the Israeli political scene. What Peres and other Israeli leaders are required to do is to put the Israeli house in order before talking about Palestinian and Arab differences and contradictions.

The adage is right that said: "Before you clean the speck from the eyes of others, remove the particle from your own eyes."

International Conference Urged

TA011444 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
26 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial in English: "Translate Words Into Deeds"]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in his most recent press conference, mandated Secretary of State George Shultz to see if practical and real progress could be made which would provide a pathway to a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. The President said, and we quote: "It's time for all parties to rid themselves of old ideas and stances that cannot work and to begin a serious process of negotiation and reconciliation. Any process that is undertaken must meet Israel's security needs and satisfy the legitimate rights of the Palestinians." He added that "it's time for us to arrive at a true peace and recognize the rights of all."

We agree that the recognition of the "rights of all" is the best basis for a just peace. President Reagan himself mentioned the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. But, until now the national rights of the Palestinians have not been recognized. They are denied, and we fear that the U.S. President's stated commitment to such rights is again not going to be fulfilled through the present and future efforts of Mr Shultz. If Mr Shultz were indeed coming on that basis, then peace would be taking the first step in the peace process toward a comprehensive settlement.

Imagine that, a comprehensive settlement where the rights of all parties in the region would be recognized, meaning for the Palestinians a state and a flag, for the Israelis security and recognition, for Syria the return of the Golan Heights, for Lebanon Israel's withdrawal to the international border, for Jordan an end to the Israeli threat of turning the East Bank into the Palestinian state, and for Egypt the warming of relations with Israel and the resolution of the Tabah conflict.

We believe such a settlement could best be reached through an international conference attended by all parties to the conflict, particularly the PLO and Israel, as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council. If Mr Shultz and President Reagan really mean business this time, let them provide the peace process with the "shot in the arm" it needs by accepting the idea of an international conference.

The gravity of the situation, the many obstacles in our way and the lurking suspicions in the air prevent us from being too optimistic. We don't want to build false hopes, yet the conditions are there for a settlement. The uprising and the great sacrifices that the Palestinian people have made and will continue to make have paved the way for a historical opening that might bring peace to all the peoples in the area. Let President Reagan and Mr. Shultz now take advantage of these opportunities, rather than retreat begind the very same "old stances" the President sought to do away with this week.

U.S. 'Ignoring' PLO's Role

TA011609 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 27 Feb 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Enough of U.S. Salt on Palestinian Wounds"]

[Text] In a statement addressed to Palestinians, read by the U.S. secretary of state before newsmen at the American Colony Hotel last evening, the U.S. secretary tried to create the impression in U.S. public opinion that he traveled thousands of miles to the Middle East to talk with the Palestinians and to help them achieve their demands. The Palestinians, however, failed to show up at the meeting. Therefore, the secretary lost the opportunity of hearing what they had to say, and they too lost an opportunity of presenting their viewpoints to him.

It was clear from this statement that George Shultz had become convinced that none of the invitees would attend the meeting. Thus Secretary Shultz, his aides, and other U.S. officials in Jerusalem failed once again to deal with the political realities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. George Shultz and the other officials imagined that inviting two Palestinians to Washington would make the masses of the Palestinian people rush to meet him when he visits Jerusalem.

The grave political error that the U.S. Administration committed, however, was to ignore the PLO's role in activating the peace process. It would have been more appropriate for officials of the U.S. State Department to ask themselves: What do we want from the Palestinians? With whom do we intend to meet? If the answer was we want them to join the peace process, then the invitation should be addressed to the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinians. If the purpose of the meeting was to hear the problems and aspirations of the Palestinians under occupation, it would have been more appropriate for U.S. officials to invite over 30 personalities who represent all political tendencies and academic and trade associations in the occupied territories. This should have been carried out without prior contacts and feelers undertaken by U.S. officials as to who would respond to the invitation, and without 2 weeks of advance announcements on these contacts and the ideas raised in them.

The meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and any of those who attended would have then been held within the framework of an exchange of views, and on the premise that the U.S. secretary was talking with Palestinians who do not have a representative capacity but are acquainted with the general problems. Such a meeting would have been divorced from interference in Palestinian affairs by some U.S. officials, and their endeavor to divide the Palestinians in the occupied territories into red, yellow, and green factions.

Hence, the humiliation to which George Shultz was subjected, and which was represented by the absence of his "guests" from his "party" yesterday, is not the responsibility of Palestinians but the responsibility of U.S. officials who tried to create a Palestinian leadership that will accept the Camp David Accords and autonomy—a leadership boasting that it can bring the PLO under U.S. influence, and a leadership imagining that it can meet with George Shultz and convey his ideas and plans to PLO sources. These U.S. officials continue to ignore the fact that the only address to go to for discussing the Palestinian problem is that of the PLO, which will participate on an equal footing in the negotiations of the proposed international conference, on the basis of a Palestinian consensus.

The issue is simple and clear: U.S. policy does not want to deal with political realities and ignores Palestinian aspirations. Perhaps what happened to George Shultz in Jerusalem yesterday, and prior to that at the end of last year, might serve to deter U.S. State Department persistence in dealing with those who excite U.S. compassion. These are people who hide behind advice to the Americans when they fail to keep their word and when evasion turns into rejection. Mr Shultz, gentlemen of the State Department, enough U.S. salt on Palestinian wounds.

Shultz Wants PLO 'Rehabilitated'

TA021351 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Mar 88 p 7

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Shultz Is Waiting for 'Arafat"]

[Text] The bottom line goal of Shultz' initiative is becoming more and more clear: to rehabilitate the status of the PLO and 'Arafat in the territories in the wake of a disastrous process in which the United States shortsightedly joined in with Israel and Jordan. This left the

West Bank and Gaza Strip open to the danger of falling into the hands of the pro-Iranian and pro-Syrian radicals which threaten the pragmatic Arab regimes, the enemies of Syria and Iran.

The Israeli press, for some reason, insists on describing the Shultz initiative as an effort to iron out the differences between Jordan and the Likud. It seems though, that if we assume that Shultz' aim is to pacify the uprising, then the creation of conditions which will enable King Husayn to enter the Balatah refugee camp will not assuage the territories. On the contrary, they will exacerbate the uprising.

Israel has been influenced by the force of the opposition to its occupation, but one can still hear, especially in nationalist pro-PLO circles, that the Israeli hell is preferable to the Jordanian garden of Eden. I myself heard Palestinian youngsters exchanging observations after a clash with the IDF—that "that army—that is, Husayn's army—is even dirtier." Even Rabin's policy of beatings has still not managed to kill this basic feeling.

Some of the reasons for the uprising, at least as far as those in Jerusalem are concerned, were reports about an understanding being woven between Israel and Jordan on the functional or territorial division of the territories, including Jerusalem.

If that is the case, the Shultz mission is not concentrating on Jordan but the PLO, and it is not the Labor Party that the U.S. secretary wants to seat with the Palestinians—but the Likud. The Labor Party leader's fears over such a trend can be seen from his statements on the eve of Shultz' arrival. In these statements he rejected the PLO as a political partner. Peres tried to block from the left any chance that the United States might succeed in laying the foundations for future contacts between the Likud and the PLO.

Why should the United States be so keen on rehabilitating 'Arafat's status in the territories? On the eve of Shultz' visit, President Reagan announced that the United States knows that the uprising in the territories was not as spontaneous as at first presented, and Shultz reiterated the President's remarks in the aircraft bringing him to the Middle East.

In fact, more and more evidence is piling up that in addition to the authentic conditions which would have brought about an outburst sooner or later, there was outside agitation. It was most probably Syria, Libya, and Iran which tossed the match which started the conflagration. This was done through a coalition of the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad on the one hand, and supporters of the pro-Syrian and Libyan "Salvation Front." This coalition was able to agilely take over leadership of the uprising, perhaps because it was prepared for what was about to happen.

A printing press for the leaflets of the uprising's leadership was recently captured in East Jerusalem. It was later found to belong to third-rate activist supporters of Nayif Hawatimah's "Democratic Front"—an organization which has strong links with Syria. The press also printed leaflets for the Islamic Jihad. That is minor cooperation which reflects the Middle East alliance between Syria and Iran.

The Salvation Front and Iran are not only the enemies of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the United States, but also of 'Arafat. Islamic Jihad was founded in Egypt—it members murdered President al-Sadat—but now it projects strongly from the territories to Cairo. That is why all the pragmatic Arab countries are unanimous in their eagerness to restore peace to the territories. These countries want to arrest the slow descent of the territories into the lap of the radical camp which is a source of ferment for the entire Middle East.

The United States believes that the territories were exposed to the dangerous threat of radicalization because of the erroneous policy—to which the Americans lent a hand—that sabotaged the stature of Palestinian nationalism in the territories. Israel had hoped that Husayn would replace 'Arafat, but instead they got Khomeyni, Al-Qadhdhafi, and Al-Asad. The Americans believe that only 'Arafat can prevent a further deterioration.

A strengthened Iran-Syria-Libya coalition in the territories would strive to veer the Palestinian struggle from a political course to a military struggle a la Lebanon. Since they are aware of the fact that prominent circles in Israel's right wing and among the settlers are waiting for just such a deterioration in order to return to what the settlers describe as "the conditions of 1948"—conditions that would make it possible to chase away the Palestinians based on the precedent of the War of Independence—predictions about a new military conflagration with Israel are not that far-fetched.

Such a conflagration could help the Iranians in their war with Iraq because the moderate Arab world would be forced to split its strength between the Iranian and Israeli battlefronts, a split which might spell its doom.

Therefore, the launching of a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue—which is the real innovation in Shultz's initiative—is meant to reenact the precedent previously set in Lebanon. This precedent is a cease-fire agreement between the PLO and Israel, initially through U.S. mediation, which would enable Yasir 'Arafat to inform the territories that the uprising is over because the PLO had attained a very significant achievement; namely, U.S. recognition and the inclusion of the organization as a partner on an equal footing in the political process.

The basic mistake committed by the United States—and also by Israel and Shim'on Peres in particular, so it turns out—was that when the joint Jordanian-PLO delegation

formed 3 years ago when Peres was prime minister, Israel hastened to persuade the Americans not to give this move a chance. That failure hampered Shim'on Peres' status as the helmsman of the political process. But it also affected 'Arafat because it showed that he alone was being asked to pay the price of a split in the PLO for his efforts to enter the political process together with Jordan, while no other party was willing to compensate him for it. Therefore 'Arafat had to make up with his Palestinian rivals, even if only for appearance's sake.

Efforts to reroute the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue to its previous course have now run up against many obstacles, but the Americans seem to be aware of them. That is why they will center their efforts on persuading Israel to strengthen 'Arafat's status in the territories by removing the ferment from the streets—where the Syrian-Iranian coalition fares better—to an orderly political course, particularly by putting the territories through the process of elections.

One main obstacle involves the Labor Party which cannot make up its mind about the sort of elections it wants: municipal elections, as demanded by Peres, or elections to the autonomy council, as Rabin demands. This argument is imbued with very deep significance and calls for a separate discussion. It seems that Shultz will press for holding municipal elections as soon as possible and is not being deterred by the fact that they will be won by 'Arafat's supporters. On the contrary, that is what he wants.

General Notes Extent of Egypt's Military Buildup

TA011918 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 March 88

[Text] Brigadier General Me'ir Elran, deputy head of the Military Intelligence Corps, says Egypt is preparing for a possible military confrontation with Israel. Speaking this afternoon to the Fifth World Assembly of Jewish War Veterans, currently taking place in Jerusalem, Elran said Cairo recognized the benefits of peace, but is still devoting much of its resources to a military build up.

[Begin Elran recording] When we look at the other side, when we look at the Egyptian side, we see that the Egyptians have not stopped building up their military potential, their military machine. To a large extent I can say that the contrary is the case. And when I ask myself, why is the Egyptian military potential stronger and larger, more sophisticated, better equipped, nowadays in comparison to what it was 10 years ago—and when I ask myself what the Egyptians think in terms of their potential enemy—I am afraid I can say only that still today, 10 years after the conclusion of the peace treaty with Egypt, the Egyptians are still preparing themselves—or preparing their military potential, and military machine—for a possible military confrontation with Israel." [end recording]

Parties Adopt Stands on Possible Early Elections

Shamir Insists on July

TA021703 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Excerpt] The Likud objects to the Alignment's compromise proposal to call early elections in June. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this to Minister Corfu who presented the Alignment's proposal to him. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

[Begin recording] The Likud ministers are now gathered in Jerusalem to decide on the Alignment's compromise proposal to bring the elections forward to June. The Likud is still holding on to its position. If there are to be early elections, they will have to take place either in July or in August. The possibility of May, as previously suggested by the Alignment, is not considered at all, said the Likud ministers. Today Minister Corfu brought the compromise proposal raised by Alignment Faction Chairman Rafi Edri to the prime minister. Edri suggested that the elections be held in June, which is a compromise between the Alignment's previous suggestion of May and the Likud's July-August.

Shamir made it clear to Corfu that he objects to any suggestion of a compromise. If the Alignment agrees to hold the elections in July, Shamir told Corfu, I will subscribe to the idea of early elections.

Yitzhaq Shamir's aides could provide no explanation today for the prime minister's categorical rejection of the Alignment's proposal. They said that the results of the Shultz talks in the area are not a weighty factor in the prime minister's considerations, even though it is widely believed that the subject of early elections will not be agreed upon before the outcome of Shultz' shuttle is known. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peres: Only If No Peace Process

TA021732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Minister Peres will support early elections only if the peace process is halted. If the intention is to murder the chance for peace by holding early elections, I object, said Minister Peres. He addressed the Labor Party's Foreign and Defense Policy Council. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr Peres also condemned what he termed the Likud speakers' savage attack on IDF commanders, saying that this is an attempt at intimidation. He also scolded Alignment members for not reacting to the Likud.

Rabin Opposes Civil Guard for Settlements

TA021141 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The defense minister and the defense establishment oppose establishing a civil guard in Judaea and Samaria settlements. Replying to a parliamentary query submitted by Yig'al Kohen of the Likud, the defense minister said that the establishment of a civil guard would hamper regular security activities. He added that the territories cannot be closed to the media. Here is an excerpt of the defense minister's remarks at the Knesset plenum:

[Begin recording] From the judicial and practical point of view, I do not see any possibility whatsoever of declaring all of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza as military zones and closing them off to the media. I do not see any legal possibility of closing such vast areas to the media only, because there is no law allowing the closure of areas to the media only. Therefore, I think we have chosen the most suitable way: declaring certain areas military zones and closing them off to one and all. [end recording]

Shamir Adviser on Agitation in Arab Sector

TA021354 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Speaking to our correspondent, 'Amos Gilbo'a, the prime minister's Arab affairs adviser, says that the Committee of Arab Local Councils and RAKAH publicly support stone throwers in the territories. This is one of the reasons for the state of agitation prevailing in the Israeli Arab settlements.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

'Collaborators' Protected

TA030550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The defense establishment is using various measures to defend and protect inhabitants of the territories who become identified as collaborators with Israel. This is reported by our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe. Several of these people have returned to the authorities weapons provided for self defense, fearing that possession of these weapons will help terrorist organizations to identify them.

Police Investigate 70 Cases

TA021230 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Mar 88 p 21

[Report by Yitzhaq Ravyihya]

[Text] Army sources have reported that in the Gaza Strip alone, military police are currently investigating about 70 cases of "irregularities" involving beatings, tortures, and shootings which caused injuries or death. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command, is constantly updated on these investigations, some of which were initiated by him. The majority of the military police investigations in the Strip involve soldiers stationed in the region and were launched after complaints against them had been filed. Some of the complaints were filed by the soldiers' direct commanding officers, some were the result of deaths which occurred in the Strip, while others followed complaints filed with the Army by Arab residents, via attorneys.

The military police investigators have recently held a lengthy meeting with several Gaza Strip Arab attorneys, and were handed additional testimonies and other material to help their inquiries. Our correspondent notes that the Army investigators are about to complete several investigations, including shooting incidents that ended in deaths; the soldiers involved may be prosecuted.

Another investigation involves the death of an Arab detainee who had been brought in wounded and was transferred to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon and later to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, where he subsequently died. The Gaza Strip Bar Association is continuing to compile additional complaints from the Strip residents. The Gaza District Police have recently been instructed to allow Gaza Strip residents to file complaints of beatings by soldiers directly with the police. These complaints will be relayed to the military police if necessary.

Italian Solons Protest

TA021238 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Three Italian Parliament members staged a demonstration along the main road to Ramallah near the Al-Am'ari refugee camp. The three protested against IDF activities in the territories by chaining themselves to electricity poles. They arrived with a 10-member parliament delegation representing several Italian political parties.

Ramallah Riot Dispersed

TA021530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] IDF soldiers dispersed a riot near the hospital in Ramallah with tear gas. Because of the wind, some of the gas carried into the hospital and, according to Palestinian sources, many patients had to flee outside. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the incident took place while a delegation of Italian Parliament members was visiting the hospital. After the visit, three members of the delegation chained themselves to a pole in the Al-Am'ari refugee camp to protest the IDF's behavior in the territories. They were taken to the police station in Ramallah and were later released.

AL-FAJR Gaza Reporter Detained

TA021758 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Mar 88 p 5

[Report by Shim'on Elqabetz]

[Text] AL-FAJR's senior reporter, 23-year old Tawfiq Abu Husa was detained last Sunday. The paper's offices in the Gaza Strip were closed down 2 months ago. The editorial staff accused the IDF and the security forces of repeated attempts at intimidation, "aimed at frightening us from working with Israeli reporters."

Abu Husa's wife Suhayr told HADASHOT yesterday: "Last Sunday night people from the defense administration, accompanied by soldiers, arrived and took my husband away. We have not heard from him since, and no one can tell us what are the charges against him. His one big sin is being a journalist." Abu Husa had been interrogated several times in the past regarding his contacts with Israeli and foreign reporters. He was told by the investigators that they were aware he was maintaining close ties with the reporters, helping them transfer information on events in the territories and in refugee camps.

The decision to close down the newspaper offices, which are under the directorship of Hasan al-Wahidi, was made by the Gaza military governor who claimed that the paper maintained ties with PLO-related elements. Al-Wahidi denies these allegations saying that the paper's shut-down was "an attempt on the part of the Military Government to deter and intimidate the paper's reporters and general staff. We will not give in, and we intend to appeal to the High Court of Justice."

Abu Husa's arrest was followed by angry reactions from Gaza journalists and attorneys. After the paper had been closed down, the man worked out of his home, but his wife said that "they did not let him work even at home." The regional IDF spokesman in the Gaza Strip could not provide information as to the reporter's whereabouts or the charges that brought about his arrest.

20 Arrested in Ramallah

TA021909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] In the territories today 20 people were arrested in the 'Ayn 'Arik village in the Ramallah district on suspicion of inciting disturbances. At the (Qaddurah) refugee camp demonstrators were dispersed this morning with tear gas. Near the Ramallah hospital a group of young demonstrators was dispersed while members of the Italian Parliament were visiting the area. The Al-'Arrub refugee camp and the villages of Bani Na'im and 'Abud remained under curfew. The villages of Qabatiyah, Hablah, and Sarah had been closed off.

Peace Protest in Jerusalem

TA021915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Excerpt] About 300 peace demonstrators arrived at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem this evening, completing a series of marches that began Sunday at Rosh Haniqra, near the northern border. Both Jews and Arabs participated in the march, organized by a group called "The Red Line Against the Occupation". [passage omitted]

18 Qabatiyah Residents Detained

TA030626 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] IDF forces have detained 18 residents of the village of Qabatiyah in Samaria. They are suspected of having participated in the killing of a collaborator. This is reported by our correspondent Moti Amir. The IDF is continuing with similar operations in the village, where a blockade is still in force

2 Idnah Residents Wounded

TA031005 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Two residents from the village of Idnah in the Hebron hills were wounded by border police fire this morning. Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat reports that an IDF and border police force entered the village to detain rioters and people suspected of having burned a bus. Several residents attacked a border police jeep with stones. The commander of the force had to fire several shots, wounding two residents in their legs.

1 Shot by IDF Near Nabulus

TA031133 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] There was a riot in the village of Bittar near Nabulus this morning. IDF soldiers entered the village to disperse the demonstrators and faced a barrage of stones. The commander of the force opened fire, wounding a local inhabitant who was taken to the hospital. Workers in most areas left for work in Israel today. Shops were opened this morning, but had been closed in the meantime.

Herut Committee Party Platform More 'Extremist'

TA291435 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by Yosi Werther]

[Text] The Herut committee formulating the party's platform last night decided to add to the movement's principles a series of extremist paragraphs, including a commitment to act on the immediate implementation of Israeli law in all the territories. The committee chairman, Knesset Member Dov Shilansky, announced that its resolutions commit Herut leaders. According to the

resolutions, the platform will include a paragraph which says that "the Jewish People's right to the Land of Israel is an eternal irrevocable right." In the current formulation the word "all" does not appear, and according to Shilansky, the change is meant to show the right of the Jewish People to both banks of the Jordan River.

On the autonomy idea, the committee decided that the arrangement will not give the Palestinians a state, sovereignty, or the right to self-determination. In reference to the peace process, it was decided that the Likud's peace initiative will necessitate negotiations without prior conditions, but will reject "a peace formula adopted from outside." This paragraph means an outright rejection of the Shultz initiative. Several days, ago Yitzhaq Shamir called on Herut to postpone a meeting of its Central Committee, which was scheduled to convene on Tuesday, because of a fear that it would adopt extremist resolutions. Shilansky pointed out yesterday that the movement's ideology is decided on only by its Central Committee and not by its leaders.

Members 'Furious' Over Platform

TA010612 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Mar 88 p 2

[Report by Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] Herut ministers and Knesset members were furious yesterday to learn of their "new platform," formulated without their knowledge or consent by the party's platform committee, headed by MK [Knesset member] Dov Shilansky. Party sources yesterday accused Shilansky of undermining Prime Minister Shamir and hastened to announce that the "new platform" is nothing but a recommendation, wishful thinking, with no political significance whatsoever.

Shilansky's platform is more hawkish than the current Herut version, adding clauses calling for immediate application of Israeli law to the entire West Bank and Gaza, "so that they will not be handed over to any foreign rule," and rejecting the autonomy concept of the Camp David Accords. The committee decided that the autonomy defined at Camp David "is not a state, a sovereignty, or even self-determination." The platform committee also decided to add a clause stating that "the right of the Jewish people to the entire Eretz Yisra'el is eternal and indisputable," while the present platform does not include the word "entire".

The Likud's peace initiative, the committee decided, would demand negotiations without prior conditions, but would reject any solution formula brought in from the outside. This is seen as a rejection of the Shultz initiative. An official Likud source said yesterday that the platform committee's decisions do not reflect the party's official position, which has not changed. They are not more than recommendations and do not oblige anyone. The source explained that Herut is in the midst of preparations for internal elections and that every Knesset member is trying to attract the attention of the party's central committee by making radical statements.

Official spokesmen dismissed the notion that Shilansky and other Herut members were trying to pressure Shamir to prevent him from making any compromises under American pressure. "There is no way that Shamir will budge from the Camp David Accords. Even if he does decide to compromise, it would be a calculated step which would not be influenced by Shilansky," one source said. "If Shilansky was so opposed to the Camp David Accords, why didn't he vote against them at the time?" MK Mikha'el Eytan demanded yesterday. "Shilansky's platform decisions cannot be taken seriously because they were made without the knowledge or participation of central committee members.

"We keep telling Egypt and the Americans that international agreements must be kept, and Shamir is fighting hard to have the Camp David Accords adhered to. Now suddenly, the rug is being pulled from under his feet from within his own party!"

"I have no doubt that Shamir, Arens, Sharon, and David Levi would all object to the new platform, if it were brought to the central committee for approval. It doesn't stand a chance," he asserted. Shilansky said on Sunday that the platform committee's decision is binding on all Herut members, since it has the same authority as the party's central committee and is the only body authorized to determine the platform.

FRG Hostage Schray Released in Beirut 3 Mar

Kidnappers Issue Statement

NC021741 Paris AFP in English 1728 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Beirut, March 2 (AFP)—The kidnappers of West German engineer Ralph Schray said Wednesday he could be released "in the next few hours" if their conditions are met.

The Mujahidin for Freedom said in an Arabic-language statement sent to a Western news agency here that "the Schray affair is heading for a solution in the next few hours" provided their "conditions" were fulfilled.

It was not immediately clear what the conditions were.

The statement, accompanied by a color photograph of Mr. Schray, added that "the mediation of our friends in Syria—notably President Hafiz al-Asad—with the German Government has given a new chance" to efforts to resolve the matter.

It said the release of Mr. Schray would be the group's "second initiative while the Hamadah brothers are still being held prisoner."

'Abbas Hamadah, a Lebanese Shi'ite, is currently on trial in West Germany on charges of involvement in the January 1987 kidnapping here of two other West Germans, Rudolf Cordes and Aldred Schmidt.

His brother Muhammad is also being held in West Germany for allegedly trying to introduce explosives into the country. Muhammad has additionally been charged in the June 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut in which a U.S. Navy diver was murdered.

Wednesday's communique constituted the first claim of responsibility for the January 27 abduction of Mr. Schray, a representative of a West German chemical firm.

But the Mujahidin for Freedom had said it was holding Mr. Cordes and Mr. Schmidt. Mr. Schmidt was freed in September.

FRG Officials Criticized

NC030825 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The Fighters for Freedom Organization, which is holding West German national Ralph Schray, has declared it will release him in the next few hours if its conditions are met.

In a statement distributed to some news agencies and papers yesterday, the organization accused German officials of prolonging the affair. The statement said this could be very difficult and terrifying for them, and that events could turn tragic.

Hostage Moved to Amal Office

NC030642 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0618 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Eyewitnesses have told the Voice of Lebanon that they saw three cars, two BMW's and a Volvo, carrying gunmen and with sirens blaring, traversing the Bi'r al-'Abd-Harak Hurayk road [in the southern suburb] last night. According to these eyewitnesses, the cars went to the office of Abu 'Ali al-Dirani [not further identified].

It has been learned that one of the cars carried the German hostage Ralph Schray, who was bound. He spent the night in one of the Amal Movement's offices. He was clean-shaven and wearing a uniform [ziyyan]. Contacts were held with Syrian officials who met with Schray during the night in preparation for his probable release today.

Freed, Taken to Damascus

NC030852 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0846 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The German hostage Ralph Schray was released a short while ago. This was reported by the official West German news agency, which added that Schray was freed and taken to Damascus.

Plans Return to Beirut

NC031607 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] REUTER has quoted security sources in West Beirut as saying that Ralph Schray, the West German who was released from captivity today, had been detained in Al-Sawwanah in southern Lebanon, the home village of 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, a senior Hizballah military official.

Meanwhile, Schray's wife, Rana Mulla, left for Damascus today to join her husband. She was accompanied by Schray's uncle, George Abu Nassar. Before their departure they met with 'Ali Hammud, chief of the Syrian observers' team in Beirut. Rana, looking relieved and happy, said after the meeting: I am waiting to see my husband. You will soon see us together in our home.

Government sources in West Beirut have reported that Schray will return from Damascus to Beirut tonight.

The West German was released early today and was immediately taken to Damascus under Syrian guard.

Daily Carries Statement From Higgins' Abductors

NC031005 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 2 Mar 88 pp 1, 10

[Excerpt] The abductors of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, head of the team supervising the truce between Lebanon and Israel, have said they have evidence of his involvement in an American-Israeli deal in southern

Lebanon. They added that Israel's continued repression of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' tour of the region will only make them more determined to bring Higgins to trial after completing his interrogation.

AL-NAHAR yesterday received a typewritten statement from the Organization of the Oppressed in the World, without a photo of the kidnapped officer. It says:

Sons of our struggling people in Lebanon and Palestine. Free men of the oppressed world.

In addition to our previous statements on the detention of U.S. intelligence agent Colonel Higgins, we would like to clarify the following:

1. The current media campaign seeks to play down the spying role of Lt Col Higgins and to divert the issue of his detention toward other flimsy objectives. The purpose of this is to mask and to circumvent the nature of his political and security role in the South with some suspicious currents and elements.

2. The attempts and action by the U.S. Administration and the crimnal Reagan, both inside and outside Lebanon, to quickly release Higgins and to demonstrate the difficulty of making him reveal secrets and confess are only a depserate attempt to stop the criminal's interrogation before we come to know all the U.S.-Israeli plots against our people and nation. They are also a doomed attempt to extricate the Reagan administration from the critical situation it is in today.

3. We declare today that we have obtained unequivocal evidence of a U.S.-Israeli deal being prepared for the south. This evidence includes information on all the pertinent details and parties involved. We will place these facts at the disposal of our eminent and sincere ulema, the trustees of the march, at the appropriate time after the interrogation has been completed, so they can take the logical action.

4. We reiterate that we will continue interrogating this spy in order to complete his file, which is bulging with his crimes. We will place these facts before our people at the appropriate time.

5. The continued daily Israeli attacks on and repression of the struggling Palestinian people's Islamic uprising, its attacks on the steadfast villages of Jabal 'Amil, and the tour of the criminal Shultz to abort the uprising's achievements will make us more determined to bring this criminal Higgins to trial after completing his interrogation. This will let the world understand that any hand that seeks to harm our people's pride, Islam, and dignity will be cut off. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Behind UNRWA Employees Abduction

NC021812 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, has stated that the kidnappers of Jorgensen and Stening, who were released yesterday, were Palestinians. Sa'd reported that he gave the kidnappers a 12-hour ultimatum yesterday to release the two hostages. He told AFP that if they had not responded to the ultimatum before the deadline expired, he would have taken the necessary measures against them. Sa'd also pointed out that the intensive efforts made and pressures applied by numerous concerned parties led to the two employees' release.

Envoy Briefs Al-Jumayyil on Al-Sadr 'Return'

NC021559 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] At noon today President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil received In'am 'Usayran Ramadan, Lebanese charge d'affaires in Paris. 'Usayran briefed him on her meeting with Ayatollah Mehdi Rohani in Paris, where she discussed his recent statements pertaining to the imminent return of Imam Sayyid Musa al-Sadr.

'Usayran arrived in Beirut last night. This morning she met with Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry. She gave him a detailed report on her meeting and contacts with the spiritual leader of the Shi'ite community in Europe. These contacts concerned his recent statements and the accuracy of the information he gave the media in connection with Imam al-Sadr's return. According to the diplomatic reports 'Usayran conveyed to Ambassador al-Turk, Imam Rohani told her that his information is correct. However, he declined to reveal his sources.

Describes Meeting With Rohani

NC031434 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] In'am 'Usayran, Lebanese charge d'affaires in France, has stated that during her meeting with Ayatollah Rohani she sensed seriousness and truthfulness. She cited Ayatollah Rohani as advising the Lebanese state to take account of the fact that Imam al-Sadr is alive.

After meeting with acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, In'am 'Usayran said their discussion also dealt with the condition of the Lebanese Embassy in Paris and of the Lebanese community in France.

Leaders Respond to Al-Jumayyil's Proposals

NC031030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The office of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has received written responses to President al-Jumayyil's reform proposals from Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt.

Former Minister Marwan Hamadah returned from Damascus last night after meeting with Khaddam and handing him Junblatt's answers, as well as contacting Minister Birri, Rafiq al-Hariri, and Lebanese Communist Party Political Bureau member Sa'dallah Najran in Damascus.

Sources in Beirut close to Hamadah have said that the Lebanese nationalist and Islamic leaders' observations on President al-Jumayyil's paper dealt with the questions of power-sharing and elimination of sectarianism. They emphasize the need to end sectarianism without delay, to apply the democratic parliamentary system in a sound manner, and to make the cabinet a constitutional institution with full powers and not just a cover for a presidential system.

Western diplomatic circles in Beirut describe the president's new position as different from previous ones, and have said it is marked by a rather strong positive streak. Washington is reportedly convinced that this position could constitute the basis for a solution. They noted further that the Syrian officials have given President al-Jumayyil's paper serious consideration. So far, there has been no sign as to whether or not the contents of this paper have been accepted. However, there are positive indications that while no quick solution can be expected, the dialogue will continue. These circles added that the president's paper will not be opposed by the Christians.

Syrian Minister Prevented From Attending Funeral

NC030915 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] According to AFP, units of the Lebanese Forces at a roadblock in Btighrin have prevented Syrian Culture Minister Najah al-'Attar from reaching Biskinta, where he was to attend the funeral of the distinguished writer Mikha'il Nu'aymah.

Amal Sends Cable to Khomeyni on Qom Martyrs

NC031053 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] In a cable sent to Imam Khomeyni today, the Amal Movement has affirmed that the holy city of Qom, which is under the continuous care of divine providence, will remain a guiding light whose strength will not be dimmed by the treachery of the rancorous.

In its condolence cable for the martyrs of the Iraqi bombardment of the holy city, the Amal Movement said: We ask God to bless the martyrs and to grant victory to Islam and Muslims.

Resistance Units Engage 'Occupation Forces'

NC022053 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] An NNA correspondent has stated that resistance fighters are currently engaged in a vicious battle with the occupation forces and their agents, who are stationed in Tallat Rshaf in the central sector of the south. All types of rockets and machineguns are being used in the fighting. The correspondent added that flames can be seen rising from the (?hostile) position in Rshaf. He said that those manning the enemy and agent positions in Jabal Humayd and Tallat Haddathah are carrying out an intensive bombardment of the areas surrounding Tallat Rshaf, where the fighting is raging. Helicopters have started to appear above the area. Zionist gunboats have also been seen carrying out maneuvers off the coast of Tyre.

Amal Gunmen, Syrian Troops Clash Near Shatila

NC022111 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The tension that had been noticed earlier in the evening was the result of a clash between members of the Syrian occupation forces and Amal gunmen near the Shatila camp. Machineguns and rockets were used in the fighting.

In another development, four explosive devices were detonated near the Fakhr al-Din secondary school in the Arab University area. The blasts caused property damage.

3 Bombs Explode Near Military Commander's Home

NC021647 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1638 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] We have received the following news report: Three bombs exploded a short while ago near the home of Brigadier General Muhammad al-Haj [commander of the Beirut Military Zone] in the Arab University of Beirut area in West Beirut.

Meanwhile, the clashes along the Mar Mikha'il-Galerie Sim'an combat line [in Beirut] have intensified.

6th Brigade Posts Attacked; 2 Soldiers Injured

NC021510 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] A responsible security source in the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade has stated: On the night of 1-2 March 1988, while units of the 6th Brigade were deployed along the contact line extending from the Mar Mikha'il church to Al-Tayyunah, their positions were attacked. They were struck by (Snap) missiles coming from positions held by gunmen on the other side of the contact lines in the Al-Matahin area. The attacks were designed to hurt the public and create tension. Two 6th Brigade soldiers were injured, one seriously, as a result of the bombardment.

Al-Shar' Confirms Release of German Hostage

JN031142 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning held a telephone conversation with FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to inform him of the news of the release of German hostage Ralph Schray and the success of the Syrian efforts in liberating him from imprisonment.

Al-Shar' emphasized to Genscher that Ralph Schray is in good health and that he will be handed to the FRG Embassy in Damascus as soon as he arrives.

Genscher expressed his deep gratitude to President al-Asad and his appreciation for the Syrian efforts, stressing the firmness of the traditional relations between the people of Syria and FRG.

Al-Shar' Receives Chirac Message for Al-Asad

JN022015 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] This evening, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received (Yves Louella), member of the French Parliament, former minister, and chairman of the French club for Arab countries, in the presence of the French ambassador in Damascus. Al-Shar' received a written message to President Hafiz al-Asad from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. The message deals with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territory, the situation in Lebanon, the Iraq-Iran war, and ways to strengthen friendship and cooperation between Syria and France.

Chirac affirmed in his message Syria's prominent role and the great influence which it enjoys in the region. Chirac also expressed the French Government's deep sorrow over events in the occupied Arab territory, its denunciation of Israeli practices, and its condemnation of the deportation of Palestinians. He also affirmed France's support for convening an international conference in which all concerned parties and the permanent members of the Security Council will participate out of the basic principles which reject forcible acquisition of land and out of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

AL-BA'TH Cited on 'Failure' of Shultz Tour

JN021142 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Mar 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Why Has Shultz' Mission Failed," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: As a result of its clear inability to confront the raging popular revolution in the occupied territories, Israel has sought U.S. help in an attempt to contain and quench the revolution. Therefore, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in the region with what was described as new proposals whose title, as President Reagan said, is the search for a comprehensive settlement.

Up to this point, some sides had interpreted the U.S. stand as containing some change in U.S. diplomacy, or at least in the way this diplomacy handles the Middle East crisis in general and the Palestine question in particular. However, after Shultz concluded his tour and even before he left the region, it has become clear that the U.S. secretary of state's proposals, some of which were aimed at ending the popular uprising in the occupied territories, were unsucessful.

The paper asks: Has the U.S. Administration actually been serious in searching for a comprehensive settlement, or has it only raised this slogan to help Israel contain our people's revolution in the occupied territoreis? To answer this question we should refer to a recent statement by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, in which he said that Shultz must realize that the Israelis seek to exhaust all parties to achieve their objectives.

The paper adds: The U.S. Administration may or may not know this fact, which was stated by one of the senior experts on the Middle East crisis. Each one of these cases is worse than the other. If the Reagan administration, including its political, economic, and military teams, is fully aware of the nature of the Israelis, then it undoubtedly proves the unlimited U.S. sympathy with and support for the Zionist entity. However, if it is the opposite, then the U.S. Administration is actually implementing an Israeli policy that serves the dreams of hegemony and expansion in the region. A solution to this problem lies in the liberation of U.S. decisionmaking from Zionist control.

Concluding, the paper says: At any rate, the Arab demand regarding a comprehensive and just settlement will continue to be the basis for any discussion of all ideas on the Palestine question. No superficial ideas, whose objective is procrastination or temporary anesthetization, will succeed. This is the reason behind the failure of Shultz' mission.

Afghanistan

Pakistani Air Space Violation Protested

LD021653 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning. The following matters were conveyed to him by the official responsible for the First Political Department:

According to the information of the security authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, at 0855 this morning a Pakistani Air Force F-16 entered the Republic of Afghanistan's airspace at an altitude of 4,000-4,200 meters and, after 10 reconaissance flights [as heard] in the Shinkoral area, Konar Province, returned to Pakistan.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan considers the Pakistani Air Force's blatant aggression, which has taken place at a time when talks between the two countries are continuing in Geneva, to be a provocative action and strongly protests against it. It demands that the relevant Pakistani authorities refrain from repeating such irresponsible actions, which would only result in the aggravation of the situation. Otherwise, the responsibility of its consequences will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

USSR Belorussian Delegation Arrives on Visit

LD020711 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 1, BAKHTAR—A delegation of Belorussia Soviet Socialist Republic headed by B. Mikitchenko, first-deputy chairman of State Planning Committee of Belorussia SSR arrived here for an official friendly visit on Sunday.

The delegation had a meeting with the state minister for direct cooperations and governors of Konar and Laghman Provinces. Then during their meeting exchanged views about direct cooperations between Belorussia SSR and the Afghan provinces. The delegation had a conversation with Sahar Pordeli, chairman of the Afghan trade union's central council at the same day, too.

Meets Communications Minister

LD030639 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 2, BAKHTAR—The Belorussian's SSR delegation headed by B. Mikitchenko, deputy chairman of planning committee, met Aslam Watanjar, minister of communications of Afghanistan on Tuesday.

They have talked over direct cooperation between Belorussia SSR and Afghan provinces of Laghman and Konar. The delegation has also promised the republic's cooperation in expansion of communications facilities to Afghanistan.

The delegation had also meetings with Sher Bahadur, minister of public health, and Faruq Kobakiwal, minister of agriculture and land reforms.

The delegation of Belorussian SSR expressed the republic's intention to assist the said provinces in the development of agricultural and animal husbandry.

Governors of Laghman and Konar Provinces were also present during the said meetings.

Six Guided Missile Launchers Seized in Laghman

LD021801 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The BIA military correspondent has reported that six units for launching guided missiles against aerial targets, which had been sent to Laghman Province by an armed extremist group, have been seized by the country's security forces.

The report adds that the peace-loving people of Qarghah'i District, Laghman Province, recently contacted the security forces of the country and expressed regret about the existence of surface-to-air missiles in [name indistinct] region.

The security forces, in consultation with the national reconciliation commission of Laghman Province, took timely action. These launcher units, which had been sent there to shoot down passenger planes, were seized along with six missiles and other equipment by the security forces who took them away.

Extremist Group 'Crushed' in Zendeh Jan

LD022330 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] An armed extremist group that had been engaged in terrorist and subversive actions in Zendeh Jan District, Herat Province, [words indistinct] were crushed by the security forces with the cooperation of the local people.

The BIA military correspondent reports that the peace-loving people and the national reconciliation commission of Zendeh Jan District reported to the security forces about the existence of extremists in (Shekib) Village, Zendeh Jan District.

In response to demands by the people of Zendeh Jan District and the national reconciliation commission of this district, the security forces, observing the cease-fire, entered this region and asked the extremist elements to

lay down their weapons. The extremist elements opened fire and refused to lay down their weapons. The security forces retaliated, and as a result this group was crushed [words indistinct].

Bangladesh

Reportage on Elections to Fourth Parliament

Election Preparations Detailed

BK021656 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The nation goes to polls tomorrow to elect the fourth parliament. The polling will begin at 0900 in the morning and continue till 1700 in the afternoon without any break. The polls are being held following the dissolution of the third parliament on the 6th of December last. The Constitution provides for fresh elections within 90 days of such dissolution. Nine hundred fifty-five candidates, including 7 females, are contesting for 281 of 300 seats in parliament.

There will be no elections in 18 constituencies as candidates for these seats have already been unofficially declared elected uncontested. Election in Jessore-3 constituency will be held later because of the death one of the four candidates.

The ruling Jatiya Party has fielded 280 candidates to contest the elections, the Combined Opposition Party has 268 candidates, the Freedom Party 111, the 23-Party Alliance 33, JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal]-Siraj 34, the Khelafat Andolan 30, Janodal 12, the Bangladesh Ganatantra Bastabayan Parishad 1. Besides, 213 candidates are contesting as independents.

There will be 22,302 polling centers, 22,302 presiding officers, 86,556 assistant presiding officers, and 173,112 polling officers have been engaged to conduct the polls. There are 46,943,544 voters. Of them 22,279,460 are females. Simultaneously with the parliament polls, the elections of ward commissioners of the four municipal corporations of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, and Khulna are also being held tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, all arrangements are complete for smooth holding of elections for Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] and four municipal corporations. Security service personnel have been deployed for peaceful holding of elections. Radio and television have made elaborate arrangements for broadcast of unofficial results received from election commission. Radio Bangladesh will broadcast hourly special election bulletins tomorrow and the day after.

The first election results bulletin will go on the air at 1900 [1300 GMT] tomorrow evening. These will be in addition to scheduled national bulletins in Bangla [Bengali] and English. All the stations of Radio Bangladesh will have nonstop transmission from 0630 [0030 GMT] in the morning till 0100 [1900 GMT] in the night on both days.

Addressing the nation over radio and television this evening, the chief election commissioner, Justice Chowdhury A.O.M. Masud, said all preparations have been finalized for holding free, fair, and impartial polls in a peaceful atmosphere. Strict security measures have been taken in all the polling centers to ensure peace and discipline and enable the voters to exercise their right of franchise freely and secretly. Concerned officials will ensure free and impartial elections as per election procedure.

The chief election commissioner said people's cooperation is necessary for holding the polls in a peaceful way. He appealed to the people for their wholehearted cooperation so that the voters can express their verdicts freely in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. He also urged all political parties, contesting candidates, and their supporters to cooperate with the commission for smooth holding of elections and continuation of the constitutional and democratic process.

Chowdhury A.T.M. Masud, expressed the hope that the administration will maintain complete impartiality and cooperate with the election commission for holding smooth elections.

'Peaceful' Voting in Cities

BK030848 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Voting is continuing in the country to elect the fourth parliament and commissioners of municipal corporations in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, and Sylhet. Polling began at 0900 this morning and will continue till 1700. So far, there is no report of any untoward incidents from anywhere.

President Ershad cast his vote at the Adamji College polling center in the capital. Begum Raushan Ershad also voted at the same center. After casting his vote, the president exchanged [words indistinct] present there on the occasion. Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury cast his vote at Tajpur Purano Bazaar government primary school center. He also went around different polling centers of the town and found large numbers of voters lining up before these centers to exercise their franchise.

The deputy prime minister and [minister] in charge of the Ministry of Industries, Moudud Ahmed, cast his vote at the Manipur center of Noakhali-5 constituency. The education minister, Mr Mahbubur Rahman, who is a candidate from Noakhali-3 of (Chadkhil) upazila [subdistrict], cast his vote in his home village at Namchari polling center.

Our representatives reported (?coverage) of peaceful voting from Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet, and Khulna. [passage omitted]

Bomb Blasts in Dhaka

BK030655 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, voting for today's parliamentary elections started amid tight security and a general strike called by major opposition parties. The Election Commission said that voting is taking place in over 22,300 polling stations throughout the country. Army has been deployed in all district towns, while about 30 lakh police and paramilitary forces guarded the polling stations. Nine hundred and fifty-five candidates are in the fray for the 300-member parliament.

Road transport remained paralyzed for the 2d day today in response to the opposition-sponsored strike. Twenty-one major opposition parties have called for a national boycott to the elections. Reports say a series of explosions rocked Dhaka early this morning.

2 Killed in Dhaka Shooting

BK031044 Hong Kong AFP in English 1026 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Dhaka, March 3 (AFP)—At least two people were killed and 20 others wounded Thursday in a gun battle here as Bangladesh voted for a new parliament, a hospital doctor said.

The doctor at Mitford Government Hospital said one of the victims, aged 24, was dead on arrival, while the other, aged 20, died from his injuries despite treatment. Most of the wounded were in serious condition, he added.

The gunbattle took place at Bawani School in Dhaka's Old District. The school had been converted into a polling centre for Thursday's elections for parliament and a new municipal corporation in Dhaka.

A police official near the scene said there had been some trouble at the school with supporters of rival candidates battling each other with guns and other weapons.

More than 100 people were hurt in other sporadic clashes in Dhaka, with 40 of them admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Some had suffered bullet wounds, hospital sources said.

36-Hour Strike Begins

BK021256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, normal life has come to a standstill following a countrywide 36-hour general strike since this morning. The strike has been called by the opposition parties to thwart tomorrow's parliamentary poll.

In Dhaka, all vehicles, including cycle-rickshaws, are off the road. Shops and business establishments are closed.

Reports say a complete hartal [strike] is also being observed in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, and other parts of the country.

India

2 Pakistani 'Intruders' Shot, Killed at Border

BK030136 Hong Kong AFP in English 0101 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] New Delhi, March 2 (AFP)—Indian Border forces have shot dead two alleged Pakistani intruders, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Wednesday.

Police were quoted as saying that two Pakistanis were trying to sneak into India's Raisingh Nagar sector in the western desert state of Rajasthan when they were challenged by paramilitary Border Security Force men.

The intruders immediately opened fire leading to a gunbattle between the two sides in which the two Pakistanis were killed, the news agency said.

Finance Minister Presents 1988-89 Budget

BK291640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Incentives to boost agriculture production, generation of more employment, investment and growth programs to benefit the poor and the landless, and concessions for the housing sector are some of the salient features of the central budget for 1988-89 presented by the finance minister, Mr Tiwari, in the Lok Sabha this evening.

The budget shows a deficit of 8,120 crore rupees at the current rate of taxation. The new levies proposed in the budget are expected to yield 587 crore rupees, while the revised postal rates 49 crores, leaving an uncovered deficit of 7,484 crore rupees.

The standard deduction for income tax has been raised to 12,000 from 10,000 rupees. This will benefit about 1 million taxpayers. There is no change in personnel and corporate taxes. The surcharges on income tax, wealth tax, and by way of auxiliary duty of customs on imported goods, excluding essential commodities will continue for 1 more year in view of the drought. In addition, a nominal surcharge by way of special excise duty will be levied.

Essential commodities and other priority items will continue to remain exempted. Some more essential items like sugar, matches, cotton fabrics, vanaspati [edible oil], tea, coffee, and kerosene will be exempted from the surcharge. The government has decided to levy a tax on transfer of wealth which will be applicable to all wealth tax assessments.

A number of reliefs have been provided for the agricultural sector. Costs of inputs including fertilizer has been reduced. Electric motors used in pump sets have been exempted from the excise duty. Intermediaries used in pesticides have been fully exempted from excise duty. Customs duty on certain pesticides and intermediaries is being halved. Radios, cassette players, footwear, and some other items manufactured in rural areas by registered cooperative societies will be fully exempted from excise duty to benefit the artisans and craftsmen. The excise duty on hand tools is being reduced by 50 percent.

To give a fillip to housing, excise duty on cement is being reduced by 20 rupees per ton. Fly-ash bricks will attract a lower duty of 5 percent ad valorem. Aluminum doors, windows, and frames will also attract less excise duty.

To boost exports, export profits are to be totally exempted from income tax. The 5-year tax holiday currently available for units in free trade zones is also being extended to 100 percent export oriented units. Replantation subsidies for rubber, coffee, and cardamom plantations are also proposed to be exempted from income tax. Full rebate of excise duty will now be available for tea exported directly from factories.

The excise duty on polyester filament yarn for the handloom sector, the viscose filament yarn, and cotton yarn is being reduced considerably. Handloom woolen fabrics will be fully exempted from excise duty. The subsidy on janata [hand-spun] cloth has been increased by 70 pise per meter.

To develop the electronics industry, a uniform concessional duty of 60 percent ad valorem is being proposed in respect of 280 items of machinery for the electronics sector. The duty on silicon is being reduced to 35 percent from 80 percent. Machinery and instruments required for the manufacture of rural automatic telephone exchanges will attract a lower rate of duty of 30 percent. Computer software will continue to attract the existing rates of customs duty. Color TV sets exceeding 36 centimeter size will attract an excise duty of 2,000 rupees, 250 rupees more than the present rate. [passage omitted].

To help farmers affected by the drought, the finance minister announced a reduction in interest rate on crop loans by about 2 percent. To increase the flow of credit, the target for direct finance to agriculture by the public sector banks has been raised to 17 percent for the year 1988-89. This is expected to raise the availability of direct credit by over 3,000 crore rupees.

A separate national agricultural credit relief fund has been established to provide relief to the drought affected families on a systematic basis. Additional 100 crore rupees will be made available to the National Housing Bank for promotion of house building in rural areas. The small and marginal farmers will also get assistance from HUTCO [expansion unknown] at low interest rates.

A special program Jal Dhara [water flow] is to be launched to assist marginal farmers in drought-prone areas by providing them pump sets for nominal charges. This will benefit about 50,000 farming families. Another scheme Kutir Jotiy [residential electricity] has been announced to provide electricity to the families living below the poverty line. This will benefit about 5 lakh households.

A separate social security fund will also set up for providing insurance to the weaker sections at subsidized rates.

The LIC [Life Insurance Corporation] will introduce a group insurance scheme to cover around 4 million families every year.

To meet the demands of tiny and small industries, a small industrial development bank with an equity of 250 crore rupees will be set up.

To mobilize untapped rural savings, a new scheme called Kisan Bikash Patra [Farmers Development Certificate] has been announced.

Several measures have also been announced for the benefit of scheduled [underprivileged] castes and scheduled tribes. A finance and development corporation has been set up especially for them. The corporation will play a catalytic role in employment generation and financing pilot programs.

Another major scheme to improve the lot of marginal farmers is the initiation of a project of 1 million wells under NREP [National Rural Employment Program] and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Program.

To improve the condition of children, 1,738 integrated child development services projects have been sanctioned for the most backward rural and tribal areas and urban slums.

The central plan for 1988-89 will have an outlay of 28,715 crore rupees. This represents an increase of 17 percent. In addition, the plan provides 9,714 crore rupees as assistance for state and union territories.

The Departments of Agriculture and Cooperation and Water Resources will get 40 percent more than the current year's outlay; 2,200 crore rupees will be provided for the department of rural development. Energy, transport and communication have been provided 16,588 crore rupees, 58 percent of the total outlay.

The allocation for defense has been increased by 1,000 crore rupees taking the total to 13,000 crores. Fertilizers subsidiy will be 5,300 crore rupees against 4,410 crores in the current year.

A copy of the budget document was laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha also.

Mr N.D. Tiwari has since moved the finance bill in the Lok Sabha to give effect to the budget proposals.

Budget 'Generally Welcomed'

BK010452 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The central budget presented in Parliament yesterday has been generally welcomed. Trade, industry, agricultural sectors, and ruling party members have hailed it as growth-oriented. However, opposition parties termed it as populist [as heard]. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry said the finance minister has presented a constructive budget in a very difficult situation.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry felt the support given to textiles, cement, and manufacturing industries will give a new impetus to growth. The All India Manufacturers Association welcomed the budget proposals for raising the plan outlay for agriculture and the package of incentives to agro-based industries and housing.

The Lok Sabha speaker and chairman of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, expressed satisfaction at the much-needed relief given to the farmers. The Congress-I general secretary, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, said the budget has benefited every section of society, directly or indirectly. The deputy leader of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party, Mr N.K.P. Salve, said that emphasis on agriculture and common man would help in decelerating inflationary pressures.

The opposition parties regretted that no attempt has been made to tackle the basic economic ills and that additional burdens have been put on the people, already groaning under high prices. The Janata Party leader, Mr Madhu Dandavate, described the budget as inflationary and said it has put a seal of approval on the bankruptcy of an economy caught in a debt trap.

The BJP president, Mr L.K. Advani's reaction was that the government has used the drought as a smoke screen to cover its mismanagement. Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee described the budget as disappointing and said the common man has not been benefited.

The CPI-M leader, Mr Amal Dutta, said the budget is full of promises which cannot be fulfilled. Mr Indrajit Gupta of CPI commented that the budget not only allowed concessions to rich farmers, but made no efforts to tax their incomes. The Telugu Desam leader, Mr P. Upendra, said the proposals do not aim at tackling basic problems like poverty and unemployment. Mr Chitta Basu of the Forward Bloc is of the opinion that the budget will add to inflation and cause hardship to the common man.

Mr Kishore Chandra Dev of the Congress-S said the uncovered deficit would lead to further price rises. Mr Dinesh Goswami of the AGP [Asom Gana Parishad] also expressed fear over the huge deficit. The All India Congress-J said the budget would lead to further inflation. Mr S. P. Malaviya of the Lok Dal-A termed it as a deceptive budget. Mr N.V.N. Somu of the DMK said no effective concessions have been given to drought-hit farmers. Mr Balwant Singh Ramoowalia of the Akali Dal-L said the budget is full of promises and has given substantial concessions to farmers.

While several chief ministers see the budget as a bold attempt to instill confidence in the economy and speed up the developmental process, Mr Jyoti Basu [of West Bengal] says the huge deficit would not only be inflationary, but also bring financial indiscipline. The Haryana chief minister, Mr Devi Lal also said the size of the budget deficit will push the prices up. The Press Association and the National Union of Journalists have welcomed the announcement of the pension scheme for journalists.

The Petroleum Ministry has clarified that there will be no price increase in petroleum products for the consumers under the budget proposals.

Gandhi Responds to Question on Campaign Funds

BK021516 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The prime minister has announced that he will ask the home minister to find out how the reported 30 to 40 crore rupees were acquired for use in the last presidential elections and how such a huge amount was to be used as there is no campaigning in the election to this highest office. Mr Rajiv Gandhi made this announcement in the Lok Sabha today during his reply to the weeklong discussion on the president's address to the joint session of parliament.

The prime minister was referring to a recent interview by the former president, Giani Zail Singh, in which he had made the disclosure.

Mr Gandhi congratulated the former president for upholding high moral standards by not being carried away by that offer.

The announcement came after the intervention by the speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar. Mr Jakhar said it is a serious matter as the security of the country is involved. We should do something to find out the truth.

The prime minister told the speaker that he would follow his instructions.

Gandhi Speaks on Afghanistan, Sri Lanka

BK021632 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The prime minister has declared that India has a vital stake in the developments in Afghanistan and cannot remain indifferent to what happens there. He said we see the latest developments in that country as an opportunity to strengthen nonalignment in the region. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was replying to the week-long discussion on the motion of thanks on the president's address to the two houses of parliament.

He said events in Afghanistan had brought the superpower rivalry to our very doorstep. India and Pakistan, therefore, need to work together for stability in the region. It was in this context that he had invited President Zia for talks. He hoped there will be an opportunity soon for wide-ranging consultations between the two countries.

Mr Gandhi's speech in the two houses of parliament was marked by repeated applause by his partymen and interruptions from the opposition benches. When an opposition member in the Lok Sabha tried to speak of corruption, Mr Gandhi retorted that the only corruption that had come to light was through the statement by [former President] Giani Zail Singh that his supporters had offered to spend 30 to 40 crore rupees if he had agreed to seek another term as president. [passage omitted]

The prime minister referred to the drought which he described as the worst ever. He said the year was one of persistent challenges and determined response. The government has decided to give a new thrust to agriculture. He had directed the planning commission to formulate schemes on that basis. His government will always be in the forefront to meet the genuine needs of the farmers and the farming community. But we have to ensure betterment of all sections of the rural community of which the farmer is the key figure. This cannot be done by setting farmers against other sections as is being done by certain vested interests by raising unreasonable demands.

Mr Gandhi announced that his government will examine if there is need to change the method of subsidies so that its benefits reach the farmers. We have to regain the momentum lost because of the drought and see that our foodgrain target of 175 million tons by end of the seventh plan is achieved.

Sharing the concern of the members on the price situation, the prime minister said a careful watch is being kept and inflation will not be allowed to go up. He said containing inflation is one of the top priorities of the government. Another overriding priority is the elimination of poverty. His government has made a major dent in this area through anti-poverty measures, much more than any previous government has been able to do. Special attention is being given to the welfare of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and minorities.

He said he was personally monitoring the expenditure of outlays on weaker sections. The prime minister said he is particularly concerned over government expenditure. Steps have been taken to curb it, but much more still needs to be done. He was equally keen that the government should be productivity oriented.

On Punjab, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said his government was determined to wipe out terrorism.

About Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said the PKF [peacekeeping force] has been given a delicate job which they have done commendably. The elections in Sri Lanka will give a chance to the people to choose their own government.

Referring to the opposition criticism about his holiday in Lakshwadeep [on New Year's eve], Mr Gandhi clarified that it was his private holiday and he had paid for it. He wanted to know if any law of the land had been violated by him, his friends, or relatives. If indeed he had done so, he was willing to pay the price for it.

After the prime minister's reply, both houses of parliament adopted a motion thanking the president for his address to the joint session of parliament after rejecting all opposition amendments.

Natwar Singh on Sea Boundary With Pakistan

BK021126 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Government has taken steps for the demarcation of the maritime boundary with Pakistan. Stating this in the Lok Sabha today, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said the Coast Guard is stepping up vigil to protect Indian interest and to prevent poaching by Pakistani fishing vessels in the Arabian Sea. He shared members' concern over the frequent arrest of Indian fishermen by the Pakistani authorities and said the government is fully alive to the problem.

Replying to another question, Mr Natwar Singh said India is in close touch with Burma to check cross-border insurgency. He said Rangoon had assured full cooperation in the matter during the prime minister's recent visit to Burma.

Violence, Killings Continue in Punjab State

CPI-M 'Activist' Killed

BK021631 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Excerpt] In Punjab, A CPI-M activist, Mr Gurdeep Singh, was shot dead by terrorists who forced their entry into his house in village (Bhatike) in Amritsar District.

In another incident in the district, a farmer was gunned down in village Kotkher. In Gurdaspur district, terrorists shot dead three persons in separate incidents.

'Terrorists' Kill 12

BK030330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] In Punjab, 12 persons have been killed in separate incidents of terrorist activities last night. In Amritsar District, terrorists gunned down a farmer, Kula Singh, and seven other members of his family in village Buhuyan. Later, the terrorists set on fire the bodies of the victims and the house. In another incident in the same district, a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] patrolling party was ambushed by terrorists in Chabal area in which one jawan [soldier] was killed and two injured.

In Gurdaspur District, terrorists shot dead three members of a family in village Mand in Sri Hargobindpur area. The victims were attacked in their house.

Iran

Musavi on Missile Attacks, People's Morale

LD021522 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi by unidentified correspondent 2 March—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] The Cabinet met this morning. After this meeting we met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. I asked him to please tell us about the most important issues discussed and any decisions made at the meeting.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I must congratulate the imam of the ummah and our martyr-nurturing nation on the occasion of this great and blessed birthday of Imam 'Ali. I hope that our people, under this (?Shi'a) leadership, can build a society in accordance with the models set by the lord of the pious [Imam 'Ali], a society which can serve as a model for all other nations.

We (?reviewed) various world issues. It is only natural that the main topic of discussion was the recent aggressions of the Saddam regime, which demonstrate its aggressive and arrogant nature and which are the best reason for crushing this [words indistinct] aggressor so that peace can be maintained [as heard] in the region. The subject of the missiles fired by Saddam's regime was discussed by the ministers, as was the people's morale and cooperation in trying to counteract them. Of course, about the missiles themselves, in order not to give any information to the enemy, I leave this information up to the people, who have themselves seen these missiles and their capability.

However, as was discussed by the Cabinet, it may be appropriate for me to praise and extend my thanks to the institutions for their cooperation. The municipality, the Islamic Revolution Committee, and revolutionary organizations must be praised. I also extend my thanks for the help provided by the Red Crescent and others, for the way they (?provided relief) for us. I must also state that our country, our nation, and this entire government is prepared to resist any kind of condition that Saddam's regime wants to impose.

During these last few days, the resistance of our people demonstrates once again our nation's strong morale which the Iraqis have tried to destroy hundreds of times but have failed. The response to this wickedness will be increasingly severe blows that our regime, that is to say, our system will deliver against Saddam's regime. They received this strong answer from us before and will receive it from us in the future, in all its dimensions, whether by using our own missile forces against the Saddamist regime or by deploying our entire forces at the battlefronts. It will receive a telling blow from us.

[Correspondent] As you know, in the last few days the Iraqi regime has once again started its attacks on our cities and during these attacks, even medical centers have not been spared the Iraqi regime's wickedness. The people have told us that the government should increase the severity of its retaliatory measures. Please tell us what political or military actions the government has taken in order to prevent this action of the Iraqi regime.

[Musavi] Militarily, our fighters will undertake extensive operations until we have responded fully to the missiles. Undoubtedly, they have been extremely effective in these operations. We have received the necessary information. Politically, the attempts of the Saddam regime have been tinged with defeat from the very start, that is, the attacks on the cities at the start of the war and the pouring of missiles on a city or on cities cannot affect world [as heard] public opinion, particularly if a country wants to confront this aggression. This is the issue.

This is an interesting item: When Mr Ozal was here I said I hope the noise has not bothered you. He said: At first I did not understand what was happening. I asked the Iranian officials what was happening. They said this is nothing; Saddam is just playing with fireworks a bit; there is no need for you to worry. He was surprised by the morale of the brothers who were there with whom he was talking. With regard to our people, from the start of the war they have always shown high morale and no manner of conspiracy, pressure, siege, economic siege, or military pressure has managed to weaken this morale.

Generally, the people become more organized, more forces come onto the scene, and the people become more aware of the battlefronts, more aware of the enemy, more aware of the high ideals of the Islamic Revolution that are under attack. These missiles in fact are launched for the purpose of destroying these ideals. I have always...

[Musavi changes thought] I am more aware of these things than before. Again, when these foreign guests were here and when they saw the morale of the people of Tehran, they said that, for example... [incomplete sentence as heard]

Missile Attacks on Tehran, Baghdad Continue

Tehran, Qom Areas Hit

LD021705 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] According to a report from the Central News Unit, on the anniversary of the birth of the lord of the pious, 'Ali, peace be upon him, the insolent and savage enemy continued its wickedness by launching missiles at residential zones in Tehran and Qom and also by mounting air attacks on Karaj and Dezful.

This evening the aircraft of the Zionist regime in Iraq violated the airspace of Esfahan, but were forced to flee before carrying out any destructive acts.

According to the same report, in the course of the enemy's missile attack on Tehran today, a number of people were martyred or injured. Among the martyrs are two young boys whose children's games were snuffed out by the savagery of the rulers of Baghdad.

According to the same report, the enemy missile and air attacks today on Qom, Dezful, and Karaj fortunately caused no casualties.

Furthermore, in the course of attacks mounted by the intruding Iraqi aircraft on a village near Rasht, a mosque was destroyed.

5th Missile Fired at Baghdad

LD021720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The General Staff of the IRGC in a statement has announced the following: In continuation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's blow-for-blow policy, at 1706 this afternoon the IRGC Air Force missile unit aimed and fired its fifth surface-to-surface missile during the past 24 hours [as heard].

The missile was aimed and fired at the Iraqi regime's security and intelligence organization [sazeman-e anmiyat] building. This missile, aimed in the direction of Baghdad, was fired to avenge the blood of the children martyred during the recent attacks by the criminal enemy, including Salman Ebrahami, who was 18 months old; Bita Ebrahimi, 4 years old; and Kaveh Rahimpur Nursavesn, 8 years old, who were martyred last Monday.

Until the puny enemy receives its full punishment from the brave and zealous fighters of Islam, revenge for the blood of the other martyrs will continue to be taken against the impudent and wicked Iraqi regime, which has attacked the residential areas of our Islamic homeland. Baghdad has often experienced the destructive powers of missiles launched by the army of Islam.

Retaliation Announced

LD021815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces announces: Following the latest aerial and missile attacks by the criminal Zionist regime of Iraq and its bombing or targeting by missile of residential areas in Tehran and several other cities in our Islamic homeland, Islam's army, using heavy and long-range artillery, has subjected to sporadic shelling beginning 29 February important military and economic installations in the cities of Badrah, Al- Sulaymaniyah, Basra and Abu al-Khasib, and up now has inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the criminal Saddamists.

On the basis of this report, the army of Islam's proud troops retaliated to the latest wicked deeds of the enemyo n the imposed battlefronts. They aimed at the enemy's positions, fortifications, and troops concentration sites with greater fire power and intensity and in each region succeeded in inflicting substantial losses and casualties on the enemy.

During the past 24 hours, the brave troops of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, while patrolling the sea and checking on foreign ships in the Strait of Hormuz, inspected the cargoes of eight merchant vessels and tankers but did not come across any suspicious cases.

The patrol aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force conducted their air patrol of the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman regions and decisively and effectively carried out their assignments supporting the Navy's combat operations.

3 Iraqi Missile Attacks Noted

NC030551 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Zionist Iraqi regime is continuing its cowardly efforts to save itself from confrontation with Islamic fighters the battlefronts by attacking Iranian residential areas. This regime blindly attacked Tehran three times last night and this morning. According to our report, fortunately, these attacks did not cause any human losses.

IRGC Says Missile Fired at Iraq

NC030559 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The IRGC General Headquarters has announced that in response to the trouble-making of the Zionist Iraqi regime, which attacked our country's residential

areas, another surface-to-surface missile was fired this morning at 0645 by the missile unit of the IRGC Air Force at a military center in Baghdad.

The announcement added: Retaliatory operations and missile and artillery attacks on Iraqi cities will continue with strength and intensity until the trouble-making of the criminal Iraqi rulers is halted.

Hospital Hit by Iraqi Missile

LD030840 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—A hospital in Tehran was struck by an Iraqi missile at 09:07 hours local time (05.37 GMT) Thursday morning as a result of which six people were injured.

The latest savage Iraqi attack has caused damage to homes nearby the hospital. Relief workers immediately rushed to the scene to rescue the victims.

Tehran, Shiraz, Qom Hit

LD031127 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the criminal enemy continued his impudent deed of attacking residential areas today by also attacking several districts in the cities of Tehran, Qom, and Shiraz. Several more of our compatriots in these cities were martyred or wounded.

According to this report, as the result of today's barbarous missile attack by Baghdad on Tehran, a hospital was hit and 20 people were wounded. Most of them were treated as outpatients. According to the same report, as the result of today's enemy air raid on Shiraz at 1151, several residential districts were bombed and as the result 13 citizens were martyred and 40 others were wounded. No report has been received yet on the number of martyrs and wounded from today's missile attack by the Iraqi Zionist regime on the holy city of Qom, the shrine of Ma'sumah, peace be upon her.

Ba'th Headquarters Hit

LD031130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Please pay attention to a report we received a few moments ago: The General Staff of the IRGC announced a few minutes ago that in retaliation for the atrocities of the Zionist enemy in attacking our country's residential areas, a surface-to-surface missile was fired on the Iraqi Ba'th Party headquarters in Baghdad by the missile unit of the Air Force of the IRGC at 1355 today.

Iraqi Army Command Struck

LD031616 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—An Iranian surface-to-surface missile was fired at the Iraqi Army Command headquarters in Baghdad at 18:37 hours local time (15:07 GMT) Thursday. It was the 3rd surface-to-surface missile fired today at Baghdad by the missile unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and the 11th since Monday.

IRGC Gunboats Attack Iraqi Oil Jetties

LD031126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the three forces of the IRGC has issued a communique: The epic creators of the third region of the IRGC naval force, using several of its gunboats, and with supporting artillery fire of its coastal artillery unit, last night [as heard], attacked Iraq's Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah jetties, killing a number of the Zionist enemy personnel and setting ablaze some of the installations on the jetties.

Also last night, heavy artillery fire from the coastal artillery unit of the IRGC naval force on the strategic port of Umm Qasr inflicted heavy losses on economic and military centers and one of the enemy's tactical bases in the port, and killed or wounded some enemy forces. A large section of Umm Qasr port was set ablaze. The smoke from the fire covered the region for hours.

Kurds Kill 'at Least 10' Iraqi Soldiers

LD021158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The recent attack of the Zionist enemy's forces against liberated areas in the (Bani-Sal) region in Iraq's Irbil Province led to their disgraceful defeat. The peshmergas of the Kurdish Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan, in the course of a series of successful operations, killed at least 10 members of the command and administration ranks of Iraq's 23d Army Corps. A considerable number of them were also wounded.

According to Ramadan Headquarters, the center for the direction of the irregular warfare operations of the IRGC Ground Forces, in the course of these daring operations of the peshmergas of the Kurdish Patriotic Union of Iraq on the command base of Iraq's 23d Army Corps killed Staff Brigadier General Hasan 'Ali Salih, the commander of the corps; Colonel Tariq Khalil; Major Sa'dallah Ahmad Salih, in charge of corps intelligence; and Major Hasan Husayn, commander of the Home Guards forces affiliated to the Iraqi 23d Corps.

In these operations, a number of vehicles and a large quantity of that corps' equipment were destroyed.

UK, U.S. 'Instigated' Renewed Iraqi Attacks

LD021217 Tehran IRNA in English 1054 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] London, March 2, IRNA—Washington as well as London may have instigated Iraq's renewal of its war against Iranian cities that has seen an intense number of attacks on civilian areas in Tehran.

According to the London GUARDIAN Tuesday, Iraq's indiscriminate attacks come after a two-week lull in its 'tanker war' and could be a deliberate attempt by the Baghdad regime to find an alternative after holding military talks with the Americans.

"The U.S.," it said "made strenuous representations in Baghdad over the indiscipline of Iraqi pilots and the incidents in which they nearly hit a U.S. warship by mistake."

The temporary lull in Iraqi shipping raids followed strong U.S. protests and an American military delegation travelling to Baghdad to discuss tactics.

Like other observers, THE GUARDIAN believed that Iraq has been anxious to refocus attention on the war, which it said had been overshadowed by the Palestinian Muslim uprisings in the occupied territories.

The U.S. military team visit was followed up by a rapid visit to the Iraqi capital by Britain's minister for Middle East affairs and Baghdad's first attack on Tehran last Saturday occurred the day after his departure.

BBC claims that the Iraqis have been using their own produced missiles to fire at Tehran have been dismissed by military experts in London.

"The B.B.C. is only putting out what the Iraqis have told them, but to design such a missile takes a great deal of work and knowledge as to design a propellant, a sophisticated guidance system, a launch and so on," one weapons analyst told IRNA.

In no way was it thought that the Iraqis be given a capability being so near to the Zionist state and the consensus of opinion was that the Iraqis may have modified some existing equipment and could have been air-launched.

The only alternative suggested was that the Baghdad regime was allowed to buy a limited amount of missiles specially for the new campaign.

UK Sends 'Chemical Weapons' to Israel, Iraq

NC021903 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Reports say that Britain recently exported a consignment of chemical weapons to Israel and Iraq. The weapons were disguised as sanitary materials [mawad sihhiyah].

IRGC Air Force Commander on Capabilities

LD021742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Musa Refan, the commander of the IRGC air force, gave an exclusive interview to the Central News Unit, replying to questions from our correspondent on attacks on Tehran by the Zionist regime in Baghdad and the type and capability of the missiles currently used.

He said: In our opinion, mounting pressure from the Zionist regime in Iraq is aimed at forcing us and our people to compromise. He added: This is the result of an agreement made between the superpowers on an international scale, and we believe that our people and our authorities are capable of confronting such moves.

Concerning measures taken by the IRGC to prevent such attacks, he said: We are capable of bringing all Iraqi cities, except the four safe cities, under the fire of various types of missiles in retaliation. We assure the martyr-nurturing people of our country that we are prepared to retaliate no matter how long the Zionist regime of Iraq continues such attacks. We will force the Iraqi rulers to refrain from its savage acts.

On defenses against the missiles, the commander of the IRGC air force said: Contingency plans and moves have been made, and Tehran citizens have witnessed our moves in Tehran. The specific results of this will soon be reported.

Commentary on Iraqi-United Nations Coordination

LD021828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Political commentary; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...You heard, the criminal Iraqi regime attacked residential areas in Tehran several times last night. The Zionist enemy's military strategy of attacking civilian areas of Iranian cities was resumed and Baghdad's rulers have issued statements during the past few days that included threats to attack cities with new weapons. In order to justify the resumption of attacks on cities and residential areas, the Iraqi regime used baseless claims and then implemented the decision to resume the war of the cities. At the same time, the Iraqi air force commander was interviewed by an Arabic-language magazine and restated the threat to attack all cities.

The WIH spokesman correctly understood the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's decision for starting the war of the cities and exposed the motives of the criminals ruling Baghdad. He clearly announced that the Iraqi Ba'thist regime is determined to pave the way for resuming the war of the cities by using false claims as a pretext. Our country's foreign minister sent a letter to the UN secretary general in which he recounted the shared aims of world arrogance and the Iraqis in resuming the war of the cities. He asked the secretary general to make every effort to stop the Iraqi regime's wickedness in attacking the cities.

Unfortunately, up to now, the United Nations has done nothing. Of course, this is not surprising. What is important is that the Iraqi regime has once again revealed its true face and has shown that only the language of bullets and retaliatory measures by the fighters of Islam can extinguish the violent flames of the inhuman regime. Once again this fact has come to the fore: Peace in the region will not be achieved unless the source of the aggression, i.e., the Zionist enemy, is annihiliated.

It is quite clear that the Muslim nation of Iran's correct perception of the nature of global issues and its 9 years of experience in protecting the foundations of the Islamic Revolution have helped it continue its fight against the recent wicked tricks of the 'Aflaqi regime. The clear record of the Iranian people's struggle in the imposed war and the events of the post-revolutionary era have proved that the Muslim people of Iran flock to the arena to resist with all their might when faced with threats and pressure. The nation which is fighting to defend its identity will never leave the battlefield because of Saddam's firecrackers.

According to the reports we have received, in the first minutes after each of the Zionist regime's attack on Tehran, people gathered around the bombed areas and, while chanting revolutionary slogans, expressed their hatred toward world oppression, world Zionism, and its subservient lackey Saddam. They actively helped the relief officials. What has enraged the people even more is the hypocritical activities of the counterrevolutionary elements in providing the Zionist enemy with the information for targetting schools, hospitals, and densly populated areas. That is how the enemy was able to hit a maternity hospital in the first hours of its missile attacks.

The enemy has drowned pregnant women in their own blood. The hypocritical agents of imperialism no can add the killing of newborn babies to their shining files of those services rendered to imperialism.

Iraqi's savage attacks on residential areas have taken on new dimensions at a time when the conspiratorial efforts of world arrogance in the Security Council are reaching the final stages. At the same time, the renewed round of wicked acts by the Iraqi regime is happening under circumstances when David Mellor, the British minister of state at the Foreign Office, a military delegation from the United States, and a Soviet official have recently visited Baghdad.

It is also noteworthy that at the beginning of the current month of Esfand [month beginning 20 February] the Iraqi Council of Ministers asked Iraqi citizens to assist officials in a practice evacuation of Baghdad and other big cities. This, according to the Baghdad rulers, was to preparae for natural disasters or possible attacks.

The experimental evacuation of Iraqi cities more than 7 years after the start of the imposed war and the repeated comings and goings of representatives from the permanant members of the Security Council to Baghdad, strongly point to the fact that those who are proposing an arms embargo on Iran have put new weapons at the disposal of Saddam's Zionist regime.

Simultaneously with the final stages in implementing the arms embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran, the attack on residential areas was planned and carried out in close coordination with the normal work of the Security Council. That is because the new round of wicked acts by the Iraqi regime, in spite of the rulers of Baghdad [as heard], would act as a stimulus to speed up the vote on the resolution to impose an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran and put additional pressure on the risen ummah of Iran.

This comes at a time when all UN Security Council members are well aware of the Iraqi regime's part in initiating the aggression. Moreover, some of them have clearly and practically admitted to Saddam's aggression. Iraq started the attack on Iran persuaded by and on orders from some of the permanant members of the Security Council. This fact clarifies the reality of the conspiratorial motives of the Security Council by ignoring facts and supportiang and helping the aggressor.

If the Security Council really wants a just and lasting peace, identifying the aggressor and setting a punishment in proportion with the crimes committed should have been at the top of its resolutions. Actually, this is the same proposal which has repeatedly been mentioned by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In any case, world imperialism is determined to protect the Zionist Iraqi regime, consolidate its contining aggression, prevent the restoration of the just rights of the Iranian people, and place increasing pressure on the Islamic Republic of iran by resorting to various means. However, it is quite clear that the continuation and expansion of these pressures do not change the doomed destiny of the Iraqi regime because the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to continue its just battle until it wins the final victory, the restoration of its legitimate rights, and until the aggressor is punished.

The world knows that the Security Council's silence on Saddam's crimes indicates the nature of the Council and the legitimacy of the Iranian nation's claims. It is not surprising that the Security Council, in which colonialist countries such as Britain and the United States have the right of veto, should support Saddam, a political animal who carries out the orders of colonialists.

Montazeri Speaks on Imam 'Ali's Teachings

LD031318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Excerpts] We start this hour's news reports with the remarks by Grand Ayatollah Montazeri made yesterday on the anniversary of the blessed birthday of the symbol of justice and truth, His Holiness 'Ali ibn Abu Talib, peace be upon him, in a meeting with various groups of people, teachers, students, members of Islamic societies, and the families of martyrs.

During this meeting, the deputy leader expressed his congratulations on the anniversary of the blessed birthday of the lord of the pious, His Holiness 'Ali, peace be upon him, to all Muslims, Shi'ites, and oppressed of the world. He referred to commentaries which have been written about the meaning of the straight path. [passage omitted]

He emphasized: This great revolution, carried out by our nation and supported by the blood of our youths both before the victory of the revolution and in the fronts of the imposed war, will not be harmed or damaged by any element such as Saddam's guns and missiles or his bombings. The people have faith in their revolution and defend it. The only thing which can harm the revolution is harsh and anti-Islamic behavior which can be observed occasionally. We should take as our model all the teachings and actions of 'Ali, peace be upon him, and should follow in his footsteps. [passage omitted].

Some of us, as soon as we achieve power or a certain position, completely forget everything else and do whatever we wish, trampling upon all principles, laws, and values. This is not something which is desired by God, and it also harms the revolution—more than Saddam's missiles and bombs. [passage omitted].

Editorial Discusses Relations With Gulf Nations

PM021615 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Feb 88 pp 14-20

[Editorial by Sadreddin Zadeh: "Persian Gulf: Basic Ways To Reduce Tension"]

[Text] Political circles currently are talking about Iran improving relations with countries bordering the Persian Gulf. Reports indicate that deputy foreign ministers from the other side of the Persian Gulf are to meet with our deputy foreign minister to discuss regional security. Some slight changes in the policies of Kuwait and Hijaz also point in the same direction. Since the issue is important and some vague areas are yet to be clarified, it is necessary to examine various points.

Reducing tension, nonhostile relations with the small nations on the other side of the Persian Gulf, and readiness to improve ties with those countries have been basic and consistent policies of the Islamic Republic.

Despite the relations these countries more or less have had with the warmongering regime of Iraq and all the overt and covert help they have given Saddam, which has been his backing throughout the war, the Islamic Republic always has displayed patience on this issue. Instead of using its power against those governments, it has limited its confrontation to warnings and advice. It has even sent messages of friendship—more than they deserve—and has maintained rapport with them.

The continued contacts of Islamic Republic officials with these governments, the official and unofficial meetings and the trips back and forth, sometimes necessary and sometimes unnecessary, should have explained our very steadfast views to the officials of Kuwait, Hijaz, the UAE, Oman, Qatar, and even Bahrain. It should have become apparent to them that in this region we are fighting with Iraq alone.

This should have convinced the most stupid of their politicians that if they did not help Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran would never use its might against them. It would even help them if need be. These same steadfast views have meant that we now have good relations with the UAE, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain. There is even a chance that these relations might improve further.

Good relations with nonhostile countries in the region and improved relations with the neutral countries in the Persian Gulf prevent the enemy from taking advantage of cold relations between our country and these other nations. These are positive steps that have more or less been accepted as sound foreign policy in our country. This trend is not limited to the Persian Gulf; it is persued in our relations with other nations, and usually there is no problem with this.

But "talks with the Persian Gulf countries to reduce tensions" is a different matter. In fact, it is impossible in the face of recent provocations. The basic difference lies in why there is tension in the Persian Gulf in the first place. If these reasons did not exist, the trend of improving ties with the Persian Gulf nations would be disrupted and there would be no need for political moves to reduce tensions.

Talk of providing security in the region is useless without going into what caused this unnecessary tension in the first place. If that were to happen, it might make the criminal elements who created the present conditions more determined in their criminal acts.

Throughout 1986, the most important obstacle to improving ties with the regional governments, especially Kuwait and Hijaz, was their all-out help to the criminal regime in Iraq. But during the past year, the actions of these two countries have made the conditions much harder.

The cause of the present crisis is the unprecedented crime of the Kuwaitis in inviting the United States to stir up this area. Another cause is the incredible crime of the regime in Hijaz in killing the pilgrims who were in the Lord's holy sanctuary on Hajj Black Friday.

If by "talking with the Persian Gulf nations" they mean to leave out these two countries, there is no need to elaborate further and the issue is finished. But, as the reports indicate, it seems by the collective terms used, these two criminal elements, the Al Sa'uds and the Kuwaitis are included.

It does not seem likely that by holding talks with six Persian Gulf countries we mean to recognize a military and political power greater than each of those countries. That policy would be wrong for various reasons. Those poor people would not be pleased to have gain power an element which would make them even more dependent on the Al Sa'uds.

If that is not the case, then the reports mean that our deputy foreign minister would meet with his Kuwaiti and Saudi counterparts, which would make the issue very confused and also would bring up the question of conditions that the Islamic Republic should set before accepting such talks.

Kuwait is a small country. Within the past 7 years it has given all it can to help the Iraqi regime. In reality, if this country were to enter officially the war against Iran, it would not have anything further to place at the disposal of the Saddam regime.

Throughout the war, Kuwait has given Iraq money, oil, weapons, ports to transport food and weapons, its entire country as territory behind the fronts, and its skies for the Iraqi jets. Its waters have been the playground for the Iraqi ships and so forth. The Kuwaiti regime does not have anything else to give to the Iraqis. Kuwait does not have an army that can fight; it does have rulers that can stand the sight of blood or flaming weapons.

All through the war, there have been many reports of Iraqi and Kuwaiti trucks carrying light and heavy weapons via Kuwait's roads to the warfronts of wrong against right. Now everyone knows that Kuwaiti ports have sold oil for the Saddam regime and through these same ports Saddam has received missiles, tanks, cannon, and planes.

All this time, the Islamic Republic has shown patience, much more than a country at war would, in the face of these crimes and treasons by the Kuwaitis. Despite its might, Iran has replied to these Kuwaiti actions only with condemnation and advice.

Every time Kuwait faced pressure and condemnation from Iran for its actions, it claimed to be in favor of improving ties and claimed it was afraid of Iraq and so on. But at the same time as these declarations, it continued its help. Sometimes when the pressure on its government increased, the help for Iraq decreased. But it has never stopped helping the warmongering regime of Baghdad. It has quickly corrected its stance to give Saddam more help.

This was not enough punishment for Kuwait. When Saddam was wallowing in the grief of having lost the Karbala' 4 and 5 operations, Kuwait put itself at the disposal of the United States. It was hoping to lessen the pressure on Iraq, so it stretched out its filthy hands toward the United States and it became a bridge for the Americans and their allies to cross into this area to do as they please and to start the Persian Gulf crisis.

Now, thank God, the whole thing has backfired for the big devil and the small devils. The crisis has become another winning card for the Islamic Republic. But forgiving the Kuwaitis' crime and service to the Iraqis and the Americans can make them more active against Islam. Kuwait now regrets its actions more than anyone else; it is under more pressure. Based upon several years of experience, it is trying to make a series of empty promises with no guarantees in order to lessen the pressures that are on it at the moment so that it can carry on its previous actions. We must stress that Kuwait should not be allowed to cover up its actions by creating political waves and to escape the pressures easily without giving guarantees that it will not repeat its plots.

The least condition that should be placed on Kuwait is that it go back 1 year and withdraw the invitation to the United States and all other foreign countries to enter the Persian Gulf. Second, it should guarantee that it will not give any more help in terms of money, ports, weapons, airspace and so forth to Iraq. Of course, talks between Iran and Kuwait should not take place without these conditions being met.

In a way, one can say that the Saudi regime's role in the imposed war has been more effective than Kuwait's. It now has been made clear that before attacking Iran, Saddam discussed his plans with Islam's enemies, including the Saudi regime, and received their backing. During the war, the Saudi regime has helped Iraq, like Kuwait and even more than Kuwait. It has given ports, jetties, roads, trucks, oil pipelines, airports, planes, weapons, money, oil, arms, food, everything that is needed for a war. There have been many reports of various political, military, and financial help that the Saudis have given to Saddam.

Giving information from the AWACS to the Iraqi regime, selling oil for Iraq, buying arms for Iraq, and various other actions during attacks on the warfronts have all been noted by the world mass media. Other aid like the oil pipeline is quite obvious.

Despite all this help, which during a war constitutes heavy punishment, the Islamic Republic maintained a policy of reducing tension so it could mend relations with Riyadh. From 1984, these efforts continued and finally culminated in the trips of the two nations' foreign and oil ministers to one another's countries. None of this generosity on behalf of Iran did anything toward preventing the rulers of Hijaz doing what they wanted for themselves and for the Great Satan, the United States. It did not prevent further blows to our Hezbollah Ummah.

There is no doubt now that the rulers of Al Sa'ud, under orders from the United States and with the joy of having the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf, carried out one of the most vile and horrible crimes in the history of Islam. Black Friday in Mecca is an unforgettable day in the history of Islam and the Islamic Revolution. If we could forgive all this regime's crimes and plots, we would not forgive this.

The issue is clear and does not need further elaboration. It has not been even 1 year since that horrendous crime and the hands of the rulers of the Al Sa'ud are still bloodied with the blood of our martyrs. Yet they still consider themselves lovers of Islam and they have not doubted the necessity of the crime. They celebrated our loved ones' martyrdom and they congratulated one another. Under these circumstances, it is not clear how it would be possible to hold talks with a representative of Al Sa'ud.

How can we remember the guidance of the imam and still sit down to talks with the Al Sa'ud delegates? How can we recall the heavy sentences of the imam during his message to the pilgrims, in reply to his representative at the hajj and amid government officials and yet accept to sit down at the same negotiations table, without preconditions, with a delegate from the Al Sa'ud?

Of course, it is natural that the regime ruling Hijaz wants to lower tension now. The issue of U.S. and NATO presence in the Persian Gulf is about to be finished and nothing has changed as far as the Islamic Republic's power is concerned. The regime of Al Sa'ud, which was relying on the power of the United States, is now helpless in the face of Iran's power and the United States' weakness. At the time of the U.S. entry, it committed a huge crime. Now it is worried and is looking for better conditions in the region.

We believe that the first step must be taken by the Al Sa'ud regime. This step must be big enough to convince at least our officials to forgive what has happened in the past. Until the Hijaz officials have taken this big step, any kind of negotiation or softness on our part would present the danger that this sort of corruption might spread throughout the Islamic world. It also would be an insult to the blood of our martyrs.

The first condition for negotiations with the Saudis is that they admit they were wrong. They must apologize to the Iranian nation and beg its forgiveness. They then must promise never to interfere or repeat in the slightest way last year's events during future demonstrations and marches in Mecca and Medina. They must promise that in the future not one official will step in front of the marchers in Mecca and Medina.

Second, they must at least punish those who led the scenes of killing in last year's hajj.

Of course after these condtions have been met by the Saudi and the Kuwaiti regimes, it will be possible to sit and negotiate with each of the Persian Gulf countries to resolve regional issues and to provide regional security.

Preparations for Mecca Pilgramage Examined

LD271300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Emam-Jamarani, supervisor of the Pilgrimage, Endowments, and Charity Affairs Organization, has announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran has begun its efforts to send 150,000 pilgrims to the sacred house of God. Iran is also preparing to organize the most mangificent political-religious pilgrimage ceremony in 1988. The puppet Saudi rulers are not strong enough to obstruct the way of the pilgrims to the sacred mosque.

The supervisor of the Pilgrimage, Endowments, and Charity Affairs Organization replied to our correspondent's question on what measures have been adopted so far to dispatch pilgrimage caravans to the sacred house of God. He said: Sometimes it seems that the Saudi rulers have come to their senses and that they have learned their lesson from the horrific crime which they committed on orders from their master—the criminal United States—when they massacred the pilgrims to the house of God. It seems that they are repenting and asking the Islamic Republic of Iran and the survivors for forgiveness.

Recently, however, the house of Al Sa'ud reached the highest degree of intransigence and rudeness by refusing to reply to the proposal to send an Iranian delegation. Against the wishes of the imam, the house of Al Sa'ud issues statements and declarations lowering the number of pilgrims from our country. They state that they will not allow Iranians to engage in political deeds and marches. They have also said that they will block anything that might disrupt the security of the pilgrimage, by claiming with impunity that the Iranians were disrupting the security of the sanctuaries and pilgrimage.

Sometimes they abuse the verses of the Koran, which says that there must be no quarrelling, no arguments, and no corruption in pilgrimage, by accusing the Iranians of creating quarrels during the pilgrimage. They have showered the Iranian nation, which is fighting infidelity, with slanders and defamation.

Mr Emam-Jamrani said: Therefore, the Pilgrimages, Endowments, and Charity Affairs Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran will base its activities on the assumption of sending 150,000 pilgrims. It is preparing to organize one of the most magnificent pilgrimage ceremonies, whether in its religious or political dimension, in 1988. The organization warns the puppet rulers of Saudi Arabia: You are not strong enough to obstruct the way of the pilgrims to the sacred house of God. The strength and speed of our great Islamic revolution is such that it has already threatened and shaken your masters, let alone you yourselves.

He added: The statement made by you—that our marches and slogans against the United States and Israel create quarrels among pilgrims—is nothing more than sophistry. There is no doubt that Muslims must not quarrel among themselves during pilgrimage. However, our slogan is against the leaders of infidelity. The accusation that the Iranians are disrupting security is one of the biggest lies of the U.S. puppets. Is it a threat to the security of the Muslims if one declares the opposition of the world Muslims to the United States, Israel, and other superpowers? Or is it a threat to the security of the Saudi rulers?

In our view, the security of the holy sanctuary means that Muslims must be free to say the name of God, to seek the interests of the Muslims, to unite and create solidarity among Muslims who are against idols. It is for Muslims to engage in self-help against the enemies of Islam. It is for disavowal from infidelity.

However, in the view of the house of Al Sa'ud, the security of the holy sanctuary means that any move against U.S. and Israeli interests, even chanting slogans, must be forbidden.

The servants of the United States view security as meaning the massacre and oppression of those people who chant slogans against the interests of the superpowers.

According to the Saudis, security means to prohibit political talk in the holy sanctuaries, even though such talk may be totally in the interests of the Muslims. The security the Saudis desire is to prohibit any commitment in the interests of Muslims; it is to prohibit any decision against U.S. and Israeli interests; it is to prohibit disavowal from infidelity. The evil house of Al Sa'ud has placed all its material and spiritual capabilities at the disposal of the United States, to torture and hurt the Muslims in a way which the leaders of infidelity desire.

If, as the Saudis view it, security means that one must be a captive and a victim of misery in the eyes of the United States, the Soviet Union, and Israel, then the Iranians will create the biggest disruption to such security. And they will be proud of it.

Do the puppet Saudi rulers know that they confront the world of Islam and the free Muslims in such a way? Have they thought that the Islamic ulema and the free Muslims are not similar to a handful of glutinous Saudi court preachers, and so they will not sell themselves to the dirty world of Wahhabis who are ignorant of God? Do they believe that the Muslim and struggling nations will remain silent and calm when the Iranians are prohibited from going to the pilgrimage of Abraham and Muhammad? Do they think that these free Muslims will obey the U.S.-style pilgrimage which they want to impose on Muslims?

Do they know that the Hezbollah cells in the world will not remain silent? Do Saudi princes think that the courageous and revolutionary Iranian nation, which has broken the back of the superpowers, will shy away from a handful of individuals whose occupation is seeking pleasure and hedonism? Do they think that the world's Muslims will allow a handful of individuals whom the imam—may his shadow continue—calls apostate, to continue to rule over the holy sanctuaries?

Malaysian Finance Minister Arrives for Talks

LD020938 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—A Malaysian economic delegation headed by Finance Minister Zainuddin Daim arrived here last night and was welcomed at the aiport by Iran's Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani.

Zainuddin who is here at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart said in a short interview upon arrival, that he would discuss areas for improving mutual cooperation with Iranian officials.

The Malaysian minister also expressed hope that his visit would produce fruitful results for both the countries. He added that his delegation included experts from Malaysian banks, chamber of commerce, and oil industries who would hold separate talks with their Iranian counterparts.

Also speaking in the interview was Iravani who said the visit to Malaysia by Iran's Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani six years ago marked a turning point in relations between the two Muslim states.

Iravani also expressed hope that such visits would pave the way for improved relations and increase the two countries' cooperation in international societies.

During its two-day stay in Iran, the Malaysian delegation is scheduled to hold talks with Iran's ministers of oil, commerce, finance, and governor of the Central Bank. They will also visit some historical sites in Tehran and Esfahan.

Commentary on Turkish Prime Minister's Visit
LD291449 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1110 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Political commentary]

[Text] The Turkish prime minister's visit to Iran is the subject of our second political commentary. Yesterday afternoon Turkish Prime Minister Mr Turgut Ozal arrived in Iran at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation, to take part in the joint Iran-Turkey economic commission. He was officially welcomed by our prime minister. In this visit, Ozal was joined by 35 high-ranking Turkish officials, together with tens of merchants and industrialists, and a number of Turkish journalists.

According to the planned agenda, the project regarding the construction of an oil pipeline between Iran and Turkey, the elimination of commercial difficulties between the two countries, the improvement of roads and transportation facilities, and discussions on border issues are among the most important topics to be discussed by the Iranian and Turkish prime ministers. In addition to bilateral relations and economic affairs, the most important political issues of the country, including the imposed war and the situation in occupied Palestine, will be discussed by officials from the two countries.

Mr Ozal's visit to Tehran is in response to Engineer Musavi's visit to Turkey at the beginning of the current [Iranian] year. Mr Ozal has visited Iran a number of times before. An examination of commercial and economic relations between Iran and Turkey in the past 6 weeks clearly demonstrates the desire of the two countries to expand and deepen these relations. A number of years after the victory of the Islamic revolution, relations between the neighboring countries of Iran and Turkey were widened and took on a new form.

The decision to increase the role of Third World countries, particularly Islamic countries, in the context of those countries having the greatest dealings with Islamic Iran, and Turkey's geographical position as a neighboring Muslim country were the two most important factors in the considerable increase in relations between the two countries in the course of the past few years.

Along with these two factors, the importance and the effective role of Islamic Iran in the development of the region and its diverse and strong economic capabilities, and the economic policies of Ozal's government are among the factors that have played a major role in the expansion of relations between the two countries. The volume of commercial exchanges between Iran and Turkey during the past 6 years shows a nearly 150-percent increase compared with the years before 1980. In recent years the total commercial exchange has always been a considerable figure, with the exception of 1986 when, as a result of a reduction in the price of oil and certain difficulties in the implementation of the protocols signed by the two countries, the volume of exchanges was reduced to a considerable degree.

The highest level of exchange between Iran and Turkey was in 1985 when it reached nearly $3 billion. That agreement [as heard] was signed during Engineer Musavi's visit to Turkey in 1363 [year beginning 21 March 1984]. One of the most important developments in the course of the commercial exchange between the two countries has been an increase in Iranian non-oil exports to Turkey, which has been implemented within the context of the country's economic goals. The level of exchange between the two countries during the past Christian year was pegged at $2 billion, a great percentage of which has been achieved.

In connection with the volume of exchange between the two countries in the current Christian year 1988, Mr Ozal expressed his hope that this figure will exceed $1 and 1/2 billion.

Of course, during the past few years a number of issues, such as an increase in Iranian non-oil exports to Turkey, customs issues, etc, have caused disagreements on a temporary basis between officials of the two countries. However, it is hoped that as the result of recent visits between the officials, particularly during the current visit by the Turkish prime minister to Iran, many of these problems will be solved.

In addition to the signing of a note of understanding and an economic protocol for the current year between the two countries, the most important topic of discussion between the prime ministers of Iran and Turkey is the Iran-Turkey oil pipeline project. For the first time an agreement was signed by the prime ministers of the two countries in the year 1367 [starting on 21 March 1988] for the construction of a pipeline to transfer Iranian oil and gas to Turkey. According to that agreement, a special committee was set up by the two countries to supervise all the stages of preparation for the project and its executive management.

According to the reports published regarding this project, the oil pipeline will be constructed between the southern oil fields of Iran and Eskandarun port in Turkey on the shores of the Mediterranean. It will be of 1,860-km long and will cost about $4 billion. It will be completed in 2 1/2 to 3 years. About 1,200 kms of the pipeline will be on Iranian territory and the remaining 840 kms will be on Turkish territory. If the pipeline is constructed, the Islamic Republic of Iran will be able to export about one million barrels of crude oil to European markets.

In any case, the first round of talks between the prime ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey were held yesterday afternoon in the prime minister's office. During those talks the two sides talked about bilateral relations, regional developments, the situation in Afghanistan, and the imposed war. At a dinner given by our prime minister for his Turkish counterpart, Prime Minister Engineer Musavi expressed his hope that the formation of an Islamic common market would bring the Islamic countries closer and make them independent of the superpowers, and would strengthen the unity of Muslims in confronting hegemonistic powers and their agents.

It should be noted that during the past few weeks there have been many discussions between Iranian and Turkish officials in Tehran and Ankara, and it is hoped that their positive results will be noticed in the discussions and possible decisions of the two countries' prime ministers toward the achievement of the interests of the Muslim Iranian and Turkish nations.

Nepal

Nearly 300 Activists of Banned Party Released

BK021134 Hong Kong AFP in English 1126 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Kathmandu, March 2 (AFP)—Authorities here have released nearly 300 activists of the banned Nepali Congress arrested in connection with Monday's general strike, but three prominent members continue to be held, party sources said Wednesday.

The Kathmandu district chief of the party, Marcel Julum Shakya, Kathmandu's former Deputy Mayor Tirtha Ram Dangol and Professor Surya Bahadur Shakya remained under detention.

They were served with security detention orders and transferred to the city's central jail, party sources said.

The Nepali Congress had called for the general strike to protest against the suspension by the Panchayat government last year of Kathmandu Mayor Hari Bol Bhattarai and Mr. Dangol. Mr. Bhattarai was among those released.

Following their suspension, both city officials had followed a call by the banned party and boycotted the December 16 celebrations marking the 27th anniversary of the dissolution of the country's first parliamentary government and the introduction of the partyless Panchayat policy.

Pakistan

Islamabad Reports Violence in Karachi 2 Mar

BK030316 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] A press note issued last night by the district magistrate of the Karachi Central District says that an unruly group of people set fire to the government property, used firearms, and stoned vehicles and police groups in various areas of the Liaquatabad police station yesterday [2 March], injuring five policemen. The police used tear gas and fired in the air to prevent the further loss of life and property.

Several arrests have been made. Eight people were reportedly injured. One of them later died of his injuries. The district authorities have appealed to the elected representatives to extend their cooperation in establishing lasting peace in the area.

Briefs

PRC Bankers Visit

The five-member Chinese bankers' delegation led by Wang Deyan called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. They exchanged views to further promote existing bilateral economic relations between the two countries. They also discussed increasing cooperation between National Bank of Pakistan and Bank of China. Earlier today, the delegation called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Islamabad. They discussed matters regarding facilities provided by the National Bank of Pakistan and the Bank of China to expand trade between the two countries. [Excerpt] [*Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Mar 88 BK*]

Sri Lanka

LTTE Kills 15 in Trincomalee 2 Mar

BK030824 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0755 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] A gang of armed LTTE terrorists clad in camouflage uniforms last night raided the D.I. Farming Colony which has a mixed population of Sinhalese and Tamils and massacred 15 men, women and children, belonging to five families.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that three persons with gunshot injuries were airlifted to the Anuradhapura hospital. Two of the wounded were identified as being Sinhalese and the other, a Tamil.

The official sources gave the time of incident as 2030 hours local time [1400 GMT].

Twenty-six villagers had managed to escape and seek refuge in the Sri Lankan Air Force camp at Morawewa.

The Sri Lankan Armed Forces rushed to the scene of the massacre and found the bodies of 15 terrorist victims.

Indian Troops Raid LTTE Base, Kill 2
BK030956 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0843 GMT 3 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo 3 Mar (LANKA PUWATH)—Indian troops successfully raided an LTTE base at Mailambaveli in the Batticaloa district yesterday killing two hardcore terrorists and seizing arms, ammunition and three tons of food plundered from the public.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the two LTTE cadres had been killed during the raid when they offered some resistance.

Among the items seized were 3 tons of food rations, six outboard motors fixed to boats during terrorist operations in lagoons and along the coast, 2000 rounds of ammunition, 2 shot guns, 1 self-loading rifle, 7 120-mm bombs, 1 120-mm mortar bomb, (?and) a stock of type 36 Mills [as received] grenades.

Meanwhile, official sources told LANKA PUWATH that an LTTE terrorist who tried to fire a T-56 rifle at an approaching Sri Lankan security forces vehicle moving from Kawmunai to Ampara was shot dead at 0730 hours local time today.

[Words indistinct] from Deegawapi, Ampara state, 12 terrorists armed with machine guns and pistols robbed a tractor trailer, a sewing machine, and two barrels of diesel from the house of Valupahacha Mudulai.

The terrorists also abducted two tractor operators, W.A. Dharmasiri and A. Jayatileke.